

THE GATEWAY

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Samarasekera unveils plan for top 20 by 2020

SEAN STEELES
News Staff

As the year 2020 draws closer, rising to the challenge of competing with other institutions on a global level has become a primary concern for the University of Alberta, and one acknowledged by University President Indira Samarasekera.

But with entry to the arena of global institutions comes subjection to global rankings conducted by outlets which the U of A has been hesitant to embrace. According to President Samarasekera, the reasons for forgoing external rankings such as those done by the *Globe and Mail* and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings are clear.

"Universities can be assessed on two sets of indicators: inputs and outcomes," she explained.

"We would like to be, not in a rank sense, identified as among the top 20 universities in the world. When someone asks 'who do you think are the top 20 universities,' we'd like to have our name mentioned."

The U of A has placed 74th in this year's edition of the Times rankings, fifth in the recently released Maclean's medical-doctoral ranking

of Canadian schools.

To achieve this general standing, without deferring to the use of an outside ranking system, the University hopes to measure and compare "inputs and outcomes" on an individual level to those of other universities, to find a more accurate way of assessing its performance than the simple numbered systems created by many rankings outlets.

With this strategy in mind, the University recently released the Dare to Discover Report for the 2007/08 academic year, which measures the progress of its Dare to Discover vision and Dare to Deliver initiatives, both of which were implemented to ensure the U of A reaches its 2020 goals.

The report compares the U of A on a range of qualitative and quantitative measurements to eleven prominent North American postsecondary institutions—McGill University, the University of British Columbia, the University of Toronto, the University of Montreal, the University of Illinois, the University of California (UCLA), the University of Texas, the University of Washington, the University of Wisconsin, the University of Arizona, and the University of Minnesota.

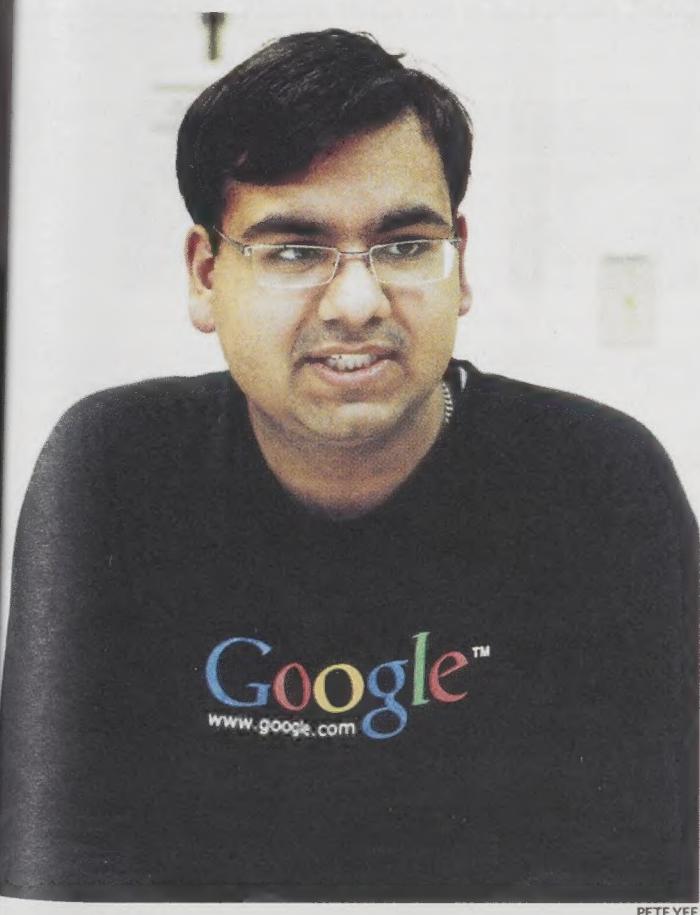
PLEASE SEE TOP 20 • PAGE 4



PETE YEE

STEP ONE President Samarasekera outlines her plans for making the U of A a top 20 public institution by the year 2020.

UASUS manages to narrowly escape dissolution as faculty association



JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior News Editor

The University of Alberta Science Undergraduate Society (UASUS) escaped the chopping block Wednesday afternoon during a special emergency meeting called to determine the future of the Faculty of Science's student association.

In light of concerns raised about their effectiveness as a faculty association following their handling of an Annual General Meeting (AGM) that took place on 5 November, the executive membership met yesterday with Students' Union Vice President (Academic) John Braga to discuss a possible dissolution of the organization.

However, a motion to disband immediately failed by an executive vote of four opposed and one abstention and thus no dissolution of UASUS will take place at this time.

"We believe that any drastic measures, such as dissolving right now, would not be beneficial to the Faculty of Science, as if we were to enter into that procedure with the three-week period of transitioning with town hall meetings, that would coincide too much with finals and be detrimental to the faculty as participation won't be adequate," said Chris Madan, president of UASUS.

The UASUS executive also released a

statement following their meeting stating that "[they have] started reviewing ways to restructure itself and [have] entered consultation with the Students' Union to find the most effective way to represent science students."

"There are questions that students at large raise about how effectively they're actually representing the Faculty of Science."

JOHN BRAGA
SU VICE PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

"There are questions that students at large raise about how effectively they're actually representing the Faculty of Science."

In the lead up to their AGM, UASUS violated several points of their constitution that served to invalidate a by-election that was simultaneously scheduled for the AGM. According to their constitution and procedural manual, no provisions for holding a by-election actually exist, and the new position they had created to run in the election was not properly approved. The group also neglected to hire a Faculty Association Deputy Returning Officer (FADRO) to oversee the proposed by-election.

Additionally, their AGM did not meet the quorum of 15 students necessary to vote and approve policy, and as such, was not considered official.

In an effort to improve their status as an organization, the group passed a motion to request that the SU investigate the possibility and consequences of seeking probationary status.

Braga explained that this motion would be an extrapolation of SU bylaw 8350, and plans to study its application, including potentially asking the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement (DIE) board for an interpretation of the bylaw.

PLEASE SEE UASUS • PAGES

SEARCHING FOR STABILITY UASUS president Chris Madan talks about how plans to improve the nearly-dissolved science students' faculty association.

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Assless chaps

Jonn Kmech argues that making rodeo Alberta's official sport will only encourage the carnies

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Jock straps

Part 2 of our behind-the-scenes series takes you into the sweaty locker room of the U of A Golden Bears

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The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, JOANNA, KEPLER and WHITNEY. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's games of choice are Left for Dead Demo, but not World of Warcraft.

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Gothic fashions exhibited at clothing and textile collection

CAROLINE LEE
News Staff

The University of Alberta has recently embraced the goth subculture by assembling an exhibition of gothic fashion for the U of A's Clothing and Textile Collection.

Boasting over 50 items that represent all spectrums of goth fashion, the collection encompasses fashion adopted by men and women, including accessories, underwear, jewelry, walking sticks, chainmail bikinis, and rock band t-shirts.

"This collection is different because it represents a particular subculture. Most of the items we get are pretty mainstream and also tend to be older, whereas this is quite recent. It certainly was fashionable at the time it was being sold and probably still is today," described Julia Petrov, exhibitions coordinator of the Clothing and Textile Collection and instructor of human ecology at the U of A.

The collection was installed after the Book and Record Depository (BARD) transferred their stored fashion items to University of Alberta Museums. According to Petrov, BARD acquired these items in 2005 from Hexed, a store on Whyte Avenue that had closed.

According to his research, Dr Alexander Carpenter, a music professor at Augustana, described the emergence of the goth movement in 1979-80 as a rejection of the popular punk genre.

"Punk is very anti-romantic. Obviously, it's grizzly and realistic. So the [goth] response to that in music is almost a romantic one. That's one way to describe goths. It's a neo-romantic impulse and these musicians that rejected punk are turning toward the poetic and emotional expression," he said.



STEVEN SYCH
BACK IN BLACK These are just some of the gothic fashions that can be found in U of A's Clothing and Textile Collection.

With this romantic foundation, the goth movement began to reflect themes surrounding the supernatural, darkness, and androgyny in the mid-eighties. Carpenter explained that those adopting these characteristics were identified as a separate group within the goth subculture that deviated from the original movement.

"The artist heroes were very much interested in emotional expression but also in darker themes. So, the nineteenth century gives birth to Dracula and Frankenstein and that ties itself to the musical movement and the subcultural movement in the eighties," he continued.

In addition, Petrov explained that the gothic subculture has intimate interests in history and art with many artistic motifs appearing in their fashions.

"The fashion tells you that they're interested in historical motifs. There are items such as rings that have the Celtic knot motif, which is very ancient. There's also association with death, such as skulls," she continued.

Those adopting the contemporary gothic subculture see their movement as a way of life that is invested in poetry, beauty, romance, and nineteenth century themes seen in films. Such characteristics are reflected in the fashion that those identifying themselves as goths have adopted.

"The nineteenth century was the era of these incredibly flamboyant characters with black teased hair and eye makeup. There are legions of boys and girls that are very androgynous copying this look," Carpenter described.

"That's why you see people dressed

up in long, leather waist coats and frilly shirts."

However, Petrov believes there are also different subgroups reflected by varying fashion movements within the goth subculture.

"There are associations with the biker culture that is [comprised] of leather, and the bondage subculture as seen by choker[s]," she explained.

The collection, located in the Human Ecology Building, has been assembled for research purposes. Clothing will be available to serve as inspiration for apparel design courses and as a documentary artifact.

"We're hoping that people from sociology, anthropology, music, or drama will also be able to use the collection again because of its documentary nature," she concluded.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Lucas Wagner and Sam Brooks



Sheryl Holborn
Arts I



Maija Raudsepp
Science IV



Brittany Bella
Arts I



Matt MacKay
Engineering I

Quarters. I'm not into real sports.

Tobogganing in a kayak, because it combines the best of winter and summer.

Hockey. Everybody likes it, and it's fun to watch.

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Campus Food Bank experiences influx in student client numbers

KIRSTEN GORUK
Deputy News Editor

The cost of living and tuition aren't the only numbers on the rise at universities, as the University of Alberta's Campus Food Bank continues to experience a consistent rise in their number of clients.

Although a small margin of yearly increase is an expected occurrence, the Food Bank's executive director, Lauren Price, has quickly picked up on an out-of-the-ordinary trend in the numbers.

"I noticed already starting in May, when I started in this position, that there was considerably more clients each month registering, as well as just more clients requesting food hampers from us. It wasn't a huge increase, but it was a consistent increase through the summer months," Price explained.

Things didn't end there either, and when the semester started up in full swing, the Food Bank experienced a huge influx in student visitors.

"September hit and we had 27 new clients versus three [from last year] and in October we had 29. So it was a really big difference, and November looks just as busy. We've already registered, I think, 15 new clients in just as many days," Price said.

She went on to say that this year has shown a rise in the number of international students and graduate students using their services. While the obvious factors behind the increase point to rising tuition and cost of living, Price feels there's more going on for international students.

"The economies abroad are not faring so well, and it seems like a lot of international students, since they can't get the same loans we get, really depend on their family as their main source of income," she noted.

As far as local students increasing their use, Price gets the impression that financial aid hasn't been able to meet the needs of students.

"They're coming to us saying that their student loans simply aren't enough," she said.

In light of the recent influx, Students' Union President Janelle Morin also remains adamant that affordability is at the root of the issue.

"As soon as education becomes unaffordable, you see problems like an increase in need for the Campus Food Bank," she stated.

"How can we expect students to devote time to their studies when they



SUPPLY AND DEMAND Lauren Price displays the recent food bank donations.

can't even scrape together money for food? I think it's important to understand that unless students' basic needs are taken care of, it's impossible for them to do what they need to do as students," Morin added.

While the Food Bank isn't able to actually log the number of students per year who require their services, they estimate that last year they distributed enough food hampers to feed 1700 people.

In order to accommodate the increase in clients, Price explained that this year's initiatives have a greater weight placed on them.

"We really did push the trick-or-treat event and we ended up raising more food than we've ever raised before. And that will stock our shelves for a few months at least," she said.

When those supplies will start to run out, which Price estimates will be around December, she's confident about help and support from the University community.

"Already different faculties and departments and offices on campus

have contacted me about donating at Christmas time which is excellent, because that way, whatever supply is going to be diminished by the Halloween food drive is going to be replaced by a lot of smaller food drives on campus," she explained.

Although the rise in clients has been unexpected, Price is also able to see the positives in the response that the Food Bank has received. She noted that in the past, initiatives which promote the various forms of student financial aid have also been coupled with a push to raise awareness about what the Food Bank does on campus.

"In a way, I think it's a good thing that we're seeing an increase, [even though], obviously, it's not an ideal situation. But I feel like our past awareness pushes have really tried to tell students that they don't need to be destitute and it isn't something they should be ashamed about. It isn't the same as an inner city food bank—we're just helping students on their way to success."

SAY HELLO TO MY LITTLE FRIEND

Just after midnight on 8 November, CSS received a report of a male exposing himself to people inside SUB. Officers attended and found a male matching that description in RATT. The Edmonton Police were called in and the male was placed under arrest for committing an indecent act.

The culprit's friends were not pleased that he was arrested and another male in the vicinity proceeded to smash the window on a Peace Officer vehicle. The Edmonton Police and CSS officers pursued the male on foot, catching up to him behind the Jubilee Auditorium. The second male was arrested for mischief under \$5000.

I SAW THE SIGN (DISAPPEARING)

In the early morning of 9 November, campus 5-0 officers observed two males taking down a street sign. The males were identified as intoxicated students of Lister Centre. They cooperated with CSS, turned the sign over, and were directed home for the night.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Jonn Kmech

BAD CREDIT

Just before 10am on 6 November, Campus 5-0 received a report of a male asking people for their credit card information in the University LRT station. Transit security was contacted to attend as the male had gone down to track level. The male was uncooperative with transit officers and was eventually arrested for obstruction. CSS booted him off University grounds and criminal charges are pending.

GIVE ME BACK MY BREAD

On the evening of 6 November, CSS received a call from a concerned citizen who witnessed a staff member assault a pigeon. The suspect apparently knocked the pigeon out of its nest at the ETLC loading dock, picked it up, then proceeded

to toss it in a garbage can. The innocent bystander then reported the incident to the SPCA and the Edmonton Police. CSS is still investigating the incident.

TANK GIRL

Around 2am on 7 November, CSS officers and an ambulance were called to Lister Centre to deal with a severely intoxicated female. The female had consumed roughly 20 shots of alcohol over the course of the evening. She refused treatment and transport by ambulance, so campus security took her to the U of A Hospital's Emergency Ward instead.

OLD YELLER

Just after noon on 7 November, Campus 5-0 responded to the report of a male yelling and causing a disturbance in front of Newton Place. Officers identified the male as a previously trespassing person who had mental health issues and had just been released from the hospital. Instead of issuing him a summons for trespassing, CSS officers directed him to the nearest LRT station.

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External rankings excluded

TOP 20 • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The eleven were chosen because they possessed similar attributes and goals to those of the U of A, an evaluative step that Samarasekera explained most general ranking systems don't take into account.

"There's no point in having a measure if you can't compare it with anyone else," she stated.

"We don't compare ourselves to a school like Berkeley, and have chosen UCLA because Berkeley has no medical school. Without a medical school, the flavour of the entire institution changes."

The report compares the success of schools on a number of "inputs" such as proportion of international undergraduate students, ratio of graduate to undergraduate students, student-faculty ratio, number of faculty awards/honours, spin-off companies formed, and citations per average full-time faculty member.

Instead of aspiring to fill any criteria set forth by ranking systems, Samarasekera explained that the easiest way to advance the U of A as an institution is to improve its basic inputs, which should then yield "immediate outcomes that will be comparable with the 20 best universities around the world."

Samarasekera indicated that the positive effects from these inputs would be evident through short-, medium-, and long-term evidence, such as extracurricular student involvement, alumni donations, and whether or not the U of A develops a cure for diabetes—a current goal for University staff in the Faculty of Medicine.

The biggest obstacle hindering the U of A's improvement, according to Samarasekera and as nuanced in the 2007/08 report card's endowment analysis, is the usual culprit: a lack

of funding. The U of A is currently ranked ninth out of the eleven selected comparative institutions mentioned in the report, posting an average endowment per full-time student at \$22 029 per student, beating only Arizona and Illinois which both received under \$16 000 per student.

Also slowing movement towards the 2020 goal is the disparity of program quality between certain faculties—a factor recognized both by external rankings and Samarasekera herself. Universities graded ahead of the U of A in both external and internal rankings are generally considered to be better-rounded across faculties and programs.

"We are using some of our dollars that we get from the government that are not ear-marked to address some of those serious short-falls in the quality of space in the arts, because they have more problems than science does, for example, in some areas," Samarasekera concluded.

Samarasekera hopes that her assessment of the University and its comprehensive indicators will serve as a useful benchmark that students can use when choosing their PSE institution in the future.

"It's about changing everything that supports the institutions and making it more relevant to the 21st century," she closed.

Working alongside the U of A administration to ensure that the University is receiving support from all sides, this year's Students' Union executive has remained adamant about their agreed commitment to providing students with the best experience possible.

However, the SU executive declined to comment on the issue of the U of A's top 20 by 2020 initiative.

DARE TO DISCOVER

- Student-to-faculty ratio: U of A places eighth with a 22.2:1 ratio. The University of Washington placed first with a 13.5:1 ratio.
- Selected Faculty Awards/Honours, 1998-2007: U of A places tenth with 99 awards. The University of Toronto came in first with over 250 awards.
- Endowments per full time enrollment student, 2007: U of A places ninth with \$22,029 per student. The University of Texas came in first with \$111 775.
- Operating Revenue from province or state sources and tuition fees per fall full time student, 2006-2007: U of A places eighth with \$18 621 per student. The University of California came in first with \$34 622.

Harper's federalism views debated by Lethbridge political science professor

JASKARAN SINGH
News Staff

The recent re-election of the federal Conservative Party, helmed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, has led many political scientists to debate the autonomy of provincial governments in determining their own international trade policies. With the Harper government promoting federal decentralization, many are left to wonder if the Tory initiatives are newly implemented policies or pre-existing occurrences.

The idea of provincial autonomy was the main focus of last Friday's seminar, Dismembering Canada: Stephen Harper and Foreign Relations of Canadian Provinces. The lecture was delivered by Dr Chris Kakucha, an associate professor of political science at the University of Lethbridge.

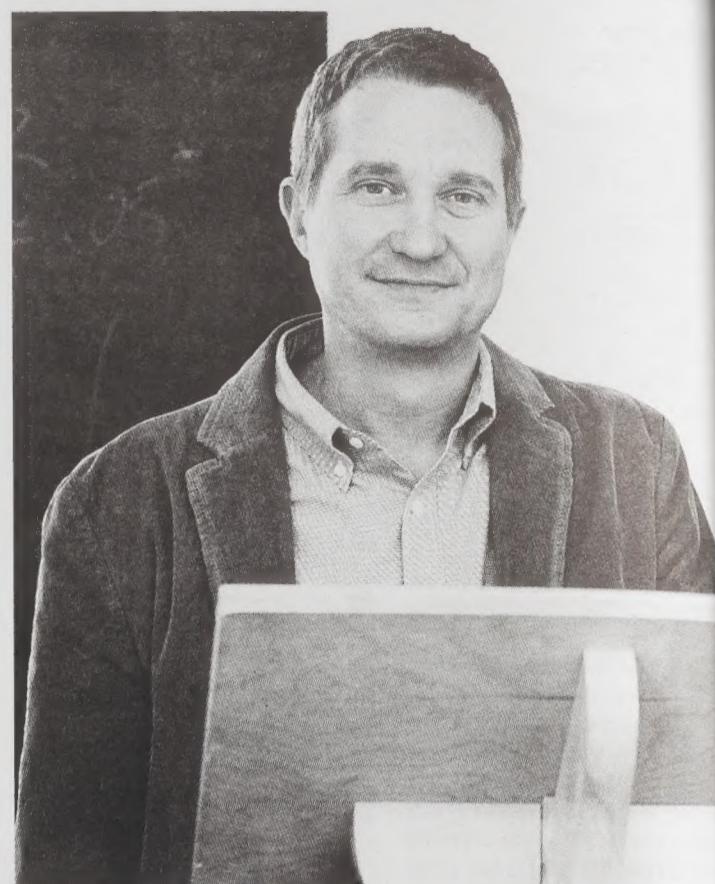
The Centre for Constitutional Studies invited Kakucha to the University of Alberta to deliver the lecture after noticing in July 2008 that the federal government and Minister Lawrence Cannon in particular, acknowledged that it accepts provinces' international trade policy activity.

"Provincial international trade activity is an interesting constitutional issue because the federal government has jurisdiction over trade and commerce policy as well as treaty-making, but the provinces have control of many of the policy matters that the federal government had to deal with in the international community," said Greg Clarke, executive director of the Centre, as he explained about the sometimes-overlapping nature of federal-provincial responsibilities described by Kakucha.

Throughout the presentation many examples and actions of provincial autonomy were used to argue whether the Harper government's inclination to greater federal decentralization is a new trend, or a repackaging of policies already in place.

"There has been a lot of talk about Harper's decentralization of Canadian federalism in general, in terms of

federal spending power, restricting social programs in provincial jurisdiction. As well as in foreign policy,



HARPER'S CANADA Dr Chris Kakucha from the University of Lethbridge talks about Prime Minister Harper's views on provincial autonomy last Friday.

he has made some provocative statements," Kakucha commented.

The main point driven by Kakucha's presentation was that autonomous actions taken by provinces, particularly Quebec and Alberta, existed prior to Harper's 2006 minority government. Kakucha rationalized these trends through simple economics.

He explained that provinces that are heavy contributors to gross domestic product have greater influence on their own trade dealings.

"Provinces that produce their own natural resources have more say in how they distribute their goods. You will have Alberta and Quebec asking for more autonomy when provinces like Newfoundland and Nova Scotia are in the back thinking otherwise," Kakucha noted.

Though he mentioned every province in his discussion, Kakucha used Quebec as the crux of his argument, elaborating upon Quebec's

monetary contributions to Haiti, allocation of provincial CIDA funding, and the ten per cent of funding that is allocated to foreign development as examples of the province's autonomy. Kakucha argued that all of these provincial actions predate the Harper government.

While many autonomous provincial actions existed prior to Harper's minority government, Kakucha did elaborate upon new initiatives of federal decentralization.

"Most recently, [Harper] supported Quebec and France negotiating a bilateral mobility agreement for labour," Kakucha explained.

While these negotiations are fairly recent, Kakucha maintained that these talks are merely a way of formalizing, rather than expanding Quebec's autonomy.

"It's easy to take credit for something that's already there," Kakucha concluded.



Mike Kendrick
The try hard

Conal Pierse
The sneeze

Cody Civiero
The 2012 'stache competitor

Jonn Kmech
The lip brow

Nick Frost
The hell-raiser

Pete Yee
The escaped convict

Lucas Wagner
The forest fire

The Gateway Editorial Moustache Competition. Week Two: Growing Pains. More at thegatewayonline.ca/stache.

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Dropping grizzly bear population due in part to road development

By SIMON YACKULIC
News Staff

The grizzly bear population in Alberta has declined to its lowest levels ever. In an effort to combat this drop, two University of Alberta researchers have attempted to find ways that may stop the decline and put the grizzlies back on the road to recovery.

Dr Scott Nielsen, assistant professor with renewable resources, and Dr Mark Boyce, professor of biological sciences, have completed an in-depth study on grizzlies in Alberta's foothills that focused on learning more about the habits of the bears, and how their habits and mortality have been affected by human development.

Nielsen explained how the grizzly bear population has been drastically reduced in size in modern Alberta compared to sustainable historic levels.

"We've gone from many thousands, what we thought was a thousand, now [with better technology] being able to do better inventory in the population, and we know [the current population] is probably less than 500," Nielsen said.

The study itself involved a large number of stakeholders, including the Foothills Research Institute in Hinton. While Nielsen was mostly engaged in analyzing and interpreting the data, parts of the study tended to be more hands-on.

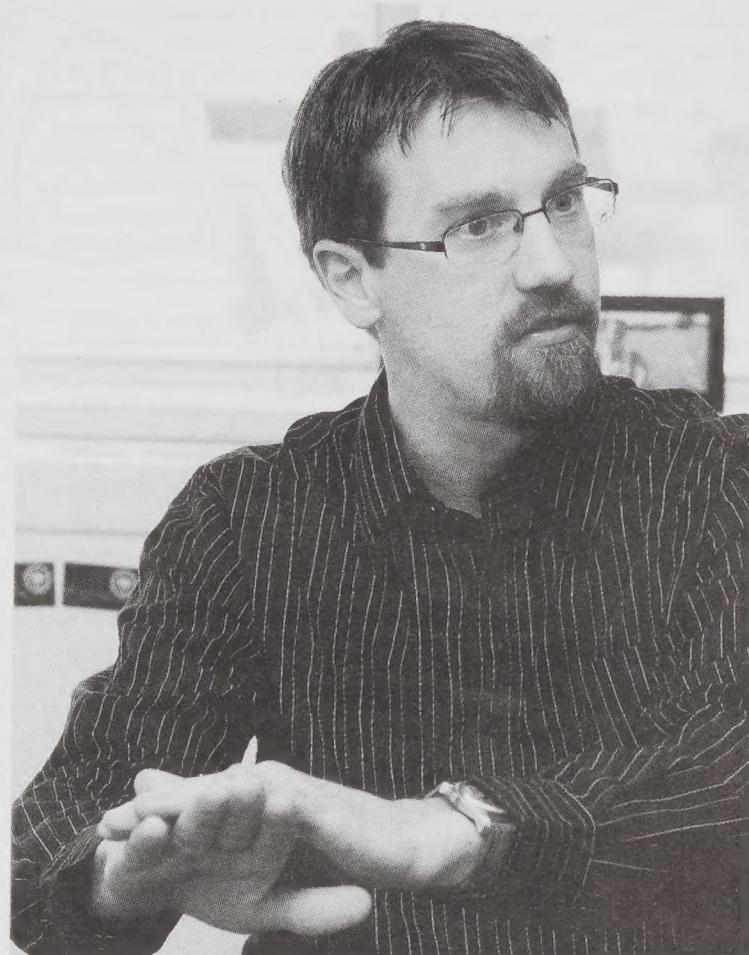
"[Study participants] have been working on collaring animals, trapping and sedating them, and putting GPS collars around them." Nielsen noted, adding that to collar some of the animals they even resorted to aerial assault.

"[Leaning] out of a helicopter, shooting them with a dart gun, and knocking them out [...] So we were trying to put 20, 30 collars on them, around the grizzly bears."

As Nielsen explains, if collecting the raw data was difficult, at least it provided the researchers with a clearer picture of the habits of grizzlies in the province.

"We would upload that information, either with satellites or downloading the collar. We would have information on where bears went, and why. What kind of habitats they preferred," he observed.

"And as we got that information, I was developing computer mathematical models, describing habitat relationships and relationships affecting the survival and habitat needs of the population."



RYAN SHIPPETT

THE BEAR MINIMUM Dr Scott Nielsen describes his study on how development has caused Alberta's grizzly population to decline to its lowest ever levels.

From that point on, Nielsen outlined that the entire study then set out to explore one critical question.

"Can we design forestry in a way to enhance habitat for bears, find a way to kind of minimize the negative effects of human activity within a landscape?" he questioned.

Study results indicated to Nielsen that it is possible to conduct industry in the foothills while minimizing the effects on fragile grizzly populations.

One interesting result was that planned clear-cut logging and other industry-associated forest modifications tended to mimic the natural effects of fire. Grizzly bears, in particular, thrive in this sort of post-fire environment.

Unfortunately, any benefit associated with smart forest management on the part of the logging companies is negated by increased roads cutting through prime grizzly habitat. As the study showed, the presence of roads associated with industry clearly had the largest negative effect on Alberta's grizzlies.

To combat this problem and encourage the restoration of grizzly

populations to historic levels, Nielsen identifies three key steps in road control.

"The main issue is road access. So we should work on controlling road access, by either gating roads, decommissioning roads or minimizing new road development. By doing so, the species would probably rebound within the next decade, back to a level that would be more viable, sustainable in the long term," he explained.

With the results of their study, Nielsen and Boyce realize that resource extraction will continue for the foreseeable future in the province, and simply wish to put some sort of boundaries on development in order to take a more balanced approach to industrial expansion.

"We need to limit road development, not stop it; but you can have forestry and you can have [resource extraction and recreational uses], you just have to do it smart. You have to try to minimize road access, and I think everyone would win in that context: recreationists and tourists and everyone else."

Concerns remain over group's effectiveness

UASUS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"[UASUS does] not have the institutional knowledge they need as a faculty association and they cannot generate that knowledge on their own. They needed some form or another of external help. They acknowledged that, and that's where the request for probation comes from," he stated.

With the long-term future of the organization still at stake, UASUS hopes to consult with science students to find out how to better serve them. According to Braden Teige, UASUS vice president (academic), the group has made strides this year and will continue to advocate for students.

"At the end of the day, we've been making a lot of good changes, a lot of positives, and I think we can really

continue with this. I think this meeting really brought up a few of the holes we are missing in our association, and we are taking steps to restructure from the inside," he said.

However if student discontent continues to focus itself against the faculty association, the possibility of eventual dissolution still exists.

"A rival student group setting themselves up and petitioning the Students' Union is something that's within the realm of possibility," Braga said, again pointing to current provisions in SU bylaw.

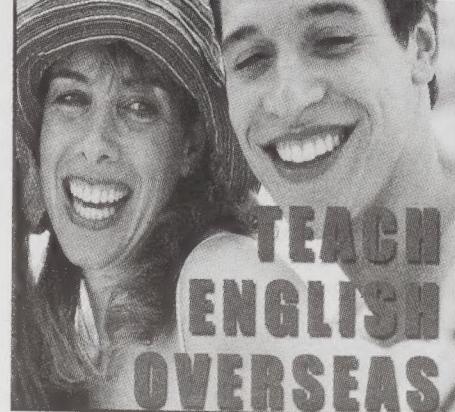
Braga acknowledged the good intentions of the UASUS executive towards improving their internal organization, but remained hesitant as to their ability to carry out any changes.

"The one positive is that it's absolutely clear from their executive that their intentions are of the noblest kind—they do care about their faculty, they really do care about their students, and they are acting in what they view to be the best interest of the students in the Faculty of Science," he noted.

"While today they have made these motions and they have done this, in what they view to be the best interest of their student body, the Students' Union has to sit back and we're calling into question the general effectiveness of them as a faculty association."

"That does have to include calling into question the effectiveness of their choice."

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OPINION

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 13 november 2008

Bust serial killers, not jay-walkers

THIS WEEKEND, OUR HUMBLE CITY EXPERIENCED our 27th and 28th homicides of the year, and the sixth within the past three weeks, further securing our title as the city with the highest murder rate in Canada.

Given the circumstances, it seems that our police spend a lot of their time breaking in their shoes in the wrong places. If less of their shift was spent scowling Whyte Avenue for lurkers and handing out tickets for mundane nuisances like jaywalking, maybe more resources could be used keeping people from stabbing each other. If people feel the need to run out in front of moving vehicles, let them. It shouldn't be the city's risk if people don't value their lives enough—it should be the individual's. We should be worrying about more important things than people dumb enough to play chicken with one of our city's many distracted F-350 drivers.

They say an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; the best place for the police to start is obviously getting in the way of the gangs. A little over 44 per cent of Edmonton murders in 2007 were gang-related, so they're an excellent target. Have a few more officers patrolling areas known for gang activity—the look of a few cops wandering the streets should be enough to scare off a fair bit of trouble. After all, young delinquents who need safety in numbers that a gang provides probably lack the nerve to strike if the long arm of the law is a few feet away. As for people with known ties, the police should be in their face as much as possible. It's not profiling: it's selective suspicion. If you or the people you spend your time with are the kind likely to be questioned by the police for gang-related crimes, then you should be aware that you're putting yourself in a dangerous situation. It then should fall on you to get yourself out of it. Because in the end, you'll be a statistic for the city of Edmonton as either the 29th homicide victim of the year or another number added to our prison system.

The rest of the Edmonton murders of 2007 were born from a variety of the usual suspects: rage, money, jealousy, abuse, desperation, and insanity. All of these can be reduced by tighter security in problem areas of the city, and social responsibility is also needed. Clearly "highest murder rate per capita" isn't a title one wants to bestow on their hometown, and the blame belongs not only on the police force, but also the general public.

It's in everyone's public interest to make the place we live a safer area. Situations like domestic violence and previous altercations are precursors to murder that can sometimes be missed by the police. It's the public's responsibility to report suspicious and dangerous behavior that can be early warning signs. Because, while we are all well aware that people just don't make friends with their neighbours anymore, you still notice if someone runs out of your neighbour's house terrified while being chased by an armed man in a hockey mask. Even if something unsavory isn't up, your crazy neighbours shouldn't be overly surprised when the cops stop by to say hello.

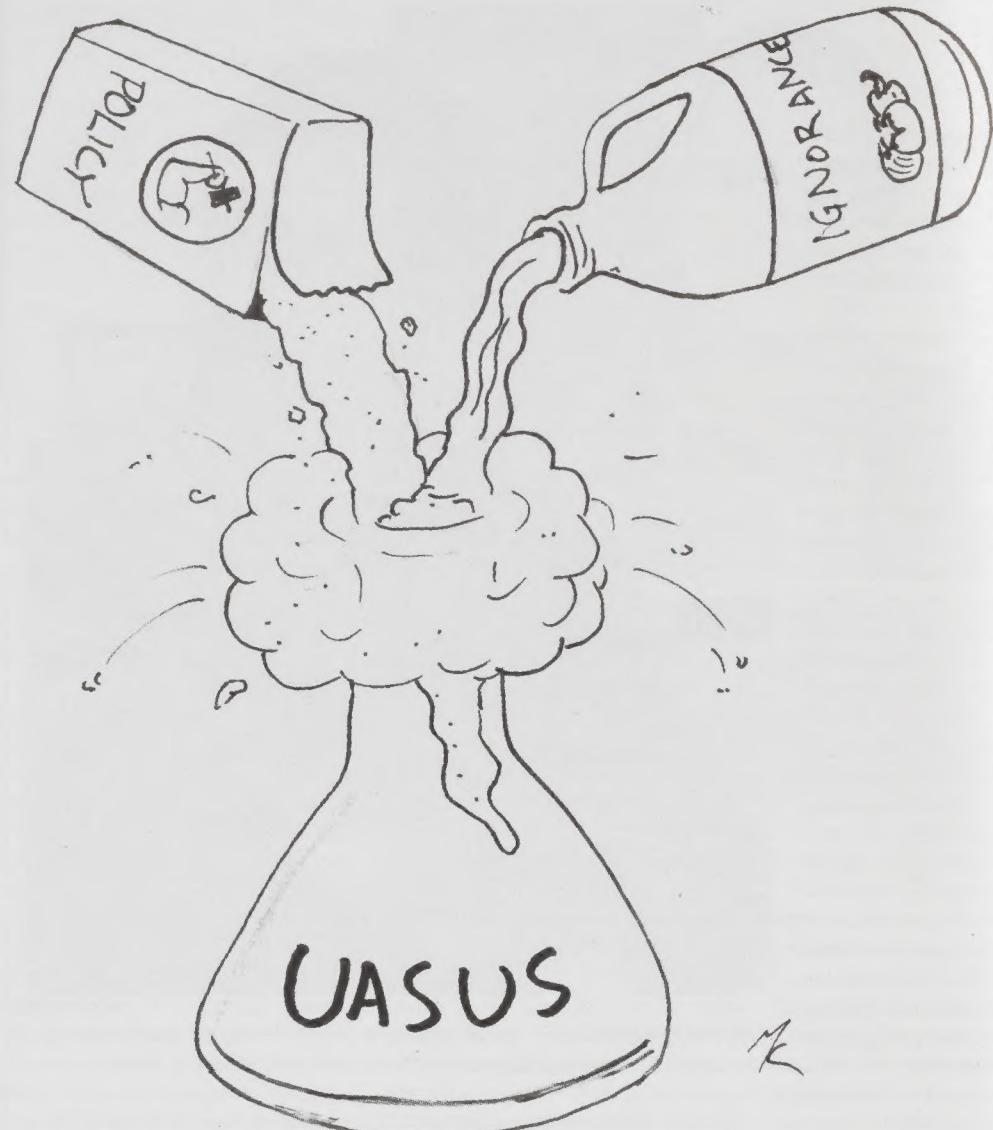
Social services such as counselling and facilities like the battered women's shelter and youth homes can always help the situation. Both volunteering your time or money make a valuable difference in our city's overall atmosphere. It's the responsibility of all citizens to keep themselves and the people around them safe, we can't throw all the blame at the police service and their fondness for useless practices like jaywalking tickets.

KELSEY TANASIUK
Design & Production Editor

Let's do the time warp

IT'S BEEN OVER A WEEK AND A HALF SINCE THE demise of Daylight Saving Time, but the darker evenings and brighter mornings still mess with my brain. It makes me pine for my home province, Saskatchewan: no superfluous time changes, and crops as far as the eye can see. Why can't we learn from our neighbours to the east?

LUCAS WAGNER
Online Editor



LETTERS

Vargas cherry picks and distorts image of Islam

I'm sure that my fellow anti-theists would answer other points in the article written by Mr Victor Vargas ("Militant anti-theism full of hypocrisy," 6 November). As someone whose country of birth (Iran) has been driven to beggary, misery, and bankruptcy by the representatives of Islam, however, I feel obliged to strongly disagree with the idea perpetuated in this article about Islamic contributions to the Middle East.

Do you really believe that prisoners of war were treated well in Islam? You sir, must not have heard what happened to the POWs of the Jewish tribe of Banu Qurayza. Their men were beheaded and thrown into wells, their possessions confiscated, and their women and children were sold into slavery. How much worse could they have been treated?

The good prophet brought progressive social reform you say? Have you heard that a woman can't become a judge under Islamic law? That her testimony, inheritance, and her life's value are half of that of a man? Do you know that people who don't hold to Islamic religion are considered as dirty as human excrements? Have you heard that the members of the conquered tribes were sold into labour and sexual slavery?

So they dug some canals and wells in the Middle East did they? My major is not history, but I am willing to wager with anyone who will take my bet that the people of the once great Persian Empire knew how to harness ground water before being educated by a couple of thousands of desert dwellers whose biggest supposed achievement was to change local cultures to their own by

the power of sharpened blades. And my ancestors did resist, and did so proudly and fiercely, the irradiation of their culture and language despite the efforts that are praised in this article.

I would like to suggest to Mr Vargas to spend a couple of hours studying history to see the heinous plunders, ruthless massacres, and the evil destruction of the once pinnacles of civilization by the victors of the battle of al-Qadisiyyah, before writing any more articles that reek of ignorance.

NAVID VAFAEI
Graduate Studies

Samarasekera needs to learn from feedback

It appears that for every poor ranking the U of A receives from publications like Maclean's or the *Globe and Mail*, our President Indira Samarasekera has an excuse.

Generally, Mrs Samarasekera falls back on the classic line "The rankings are not a fair assessment of the University, because (insert some sort of abstract statistical reasoning here)." Instead of continually dismissing these surveys as unfair, why doesn't the University administration take the feedback and make actual improvements? The U of A is a world class institution for research and education that I'm proud to attend, but there are many, many improvements that still need to be made.

The *Globe and Mail* report specifically cites food services and student residence as a large deficiency. I couldn't agree with them more. Aramark's food is famously bad and most of the residences, especially Lister (Henday, Kelsey, and Mackenzie towers), are buildings that have long since exceeded their life span (built in the late 1960's).

My message to the President and the administration is to stop making excuses and start making improvements.

MISHA MIAZGA-RODRIGUEZ
Science III

Pandas silver medal deserved more coverage

You may or may not be aware that our Pandas field hockey team just returned from Nationals this weekend with a CIS silver medal. This is not only a huge achievement for the field hockey community at U of A, but also for U of A Athletics, as this is our first CIS medal of the year.

So far, Pandas field hockey are the only team to achieve this—Pandas and Bears soccer and rugby unfortunately fell short this year.

What I can't help but get upset about is the fact that the story was merely covered under Sport Shorts and didn't get front page (even of the Sports section) coverage, let alone its own article. Was the Bears hockey game, which was on the cover of the *Gateway*, that much more significant than a silver medal at a CIS National Championship? Though the field hockey season is shorter and gets less media, this achievement should not be given less weight.

Please reconsider and feature the Pandas' silver medal that they worked so hard for in an upcoming issue.

CARLA PRESAKARCHUK
Physical Education II

Let the majority decide the convocation charge

With the debate over God being included in the charge to graduates. I feel it necessary to point out that although the Atheist and Agnostics club, in their pursuit of a secular

convocation, are attempting to be included, they are doing very little to people who believe God that they do not want done to them. They are trying to tell our beliefs and silence ours. Statistics Canada published a report in 2006 suggesting that people with no religious affiliation (including ethnicities) was between 10 per cent and 25 per cent.

With numbers like that, does it seem reasonable that God should remain included to ensure the uniqueness and inclusion of the whole? Time and again, society idly by as a few apply their will to the whole. Why is the University failing this issue to committee rather than making it a fore-front issue for students? The administration would do well to put this debate to the students and call a referendum. I believe this issue is too sensitive and critical to be discussed behind closed doors because it places the decision in the hands of a select few who are more inclined to listen to the loudest voice.

Let the students decide; it is their education and their graduation. They should have more influence than the institution.

KURT MOLZ
Engineering

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of a letter if it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The *Gateway* also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

Prop 8 a big blow to equal rights

SARAH STEAD



nearly 18 000 couples who were married legally might even be stripped of that right.

The wording of legislation against same-sex marriage is tricky and often suggests that denying a fundamental right to gays and lesbians is somehow protecting or defending marriage. If you want to protect marriage, then you should prevent people from getting divorced, not from getting married in the first place.

Prop 8 opponents were doomed from the beginning. Any time you ask a majority of people to vote on the rights of a minority, especially when religion is involved, the minority doesn't stand a chance.

Granting a same-sex couple a "civil union" isn't equal, and isn't enough. If segregation has taught us anything it is that "separate but equal" doesn't work. I feel an incredible sense of pride that I live in one of the few countries in the world where loving same-sex couples have the same rights as loving heterosexual partners.

To put things into perspective, more than 60 per cent of Californians also voted to pass Proposition 2, an act that would prevent cruelty to farm animals and livestock and enact harsher penalties against offenders—more people

voted for fairer treatment of chickens and pigs than for equal rights for their fellow human beings.

One of the main arguments against granting same-sex marriage comes from the Bible, which calls homosexuality an "abomination." Seems there are more Christians than queers in California. But it is unfair and a violation of the separation of church and state to impose a constitutional amendment rooted mainly in religious beliefs on a diverse and not entirely religious population.

However, even if it had failed, the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act allows individual states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages from other states and the federal government to refuse any benefits of those marriages, such as tax benefits or green cards for foreign partners.

Even with the election of Democrat Barack Obama, it's going to be a tough road ahead for American homosexual men and women who want to marry their partners. Although Obama has expressed interest in repealing the Defense of Marriage Act, he has also stated that he doesn't approve of same-sex marriage; only civil unions. The global economic crisis will conveniently draw attention away from the issue, keeping Obama from having to make any difficult decisions soon.

There's still a long way to go for both Canadians and Americans before both racial and sexual equality are achieved. Though Obama's victory is certainly a huge step towards racial parity in the United States, we can't forget that true balance won't exist until all minorities are granted the same rights that many of us take for granted.

On 4 November, history was made when the United States of America elected its first African-American president. I was among the millions worldwide who cheered on Obama's victory, but was soon disappointed when I learned that Proposition 8, an amendment that eliminates the right of same-sex couples to marry, passed by a narrow margin in California. Currently, same-sex marriage isn't recognized federally, but is legal in Massachusetts and Connecticut—and until last Tuesday, The Golden State.

In May, the California Supreme Court ruled that it was unconstitutional not to allow same-sex couples the right to marry and, almost immediately, a number of religious groups and other supporters of "traditional" marriage began gathering the signatures required to add the proposition to the November ballot.

Despite vocal condemnation from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Prop 8 opponents were doomed from the beginning. Any time you ask a majority of people to vote on the rights of a minority, especially when religion is involved, the minority doesn't stand a chance. And the especially unsavory thing in the case of this amendment is that gays and lesbians aren't only being denied a fundamental right, but

CODY CIVIERO



With economic issues in the hot seat, it's unsurprising to see that most of the coverage is pimping status quo, statist talking points—instructions on how to be a good little monkey and dance to the beat of the drums. The tendency is to avoid real solutions, and pursue policies that benefit the political institution to the detriment of the majority of the individuals.

For starters, every instance of currency deflation brings with it dozens of trite, propagandistic articles assuring the public that a weakening dollar will be good for Canada. This might be true in the sense of "Canada" as a state, but for an ordinary Canadian, it just means substantially reduced foreign buying power. The powers that be will emphasize "the greater good," but if Canadian exporters need our dollar to be worth a peso in order to stay in business, they deserve to fail. Endless spires regarding the supposed greatness of a devalued dollar pile insult to intellect on top of injury to the wallet. The potential demise of a factory in Mississauga isn't my problem, but a 30 per cent increase in vacation expense is certainly one directly.

Another byproduct of the fiat

currency system and focus on the collective is a reactionary call to spend whenever a country heads into a recession. Your retirement savings just got decimated, your disposable income just became part of your food budget, and you risk being laid off soon, but go buy a fucking plasma television set and everything will be okay. This is the kind of irrational result produced by a form of money with no real value. Instead of forcing people to live within their means, they're encouraged to continue allowing excess and personal irresponsibility to perpetuate itself.

Many of the problems we are seeing in action could be curbed in the future by reverting to the gold standard. Under the gold standard, there is a fixed, finite amount of capital to spread around. It's also intrinsically valuable and infinitely more stable than what we have at present.

The reason for this is fairly simple, in spite of the tendency of economists to muddle and complicate issues. The material that composes money must be portable, divisible, recognizable, durable, and valuable. Paper satisfies all of these criteria but the latter. That's what causes it to be reproduced out of thin air, and is why paper money systems have always eventually collapsed. Gold, on the other hand, has application in technology and is esthetically pleasing for use in jewelery.

Without a tangible banking system such as the gold standard, there's no reliable way to protect savings from debasement by way of inflation.

The current banking system has allowed an unlimited expansion of credit—the product of which is obviously causing some problems at the moment. More insidiously, the fiat currency system is inherent theft, as money only acquires worth by diluting the value of preexisting wealth. In spite of a recent surge in laughable attacks on the "free market," the fiat currency system prevents economic freedom.

Given these advantages, it's suspicious that it hasn't been implemented. The reason is as sinister as it is asinine—it's not in the state's interest. Alan Greenspan has noted that if a safe store of value was established, people could convert their holdings to it and refuse to accept cheques and credit. Government-created bank credit would become worthless, and those in political power refuse to allow this. It's not in their interests for owners of wealth to be able to protect their assets.

The gold system has been discredited by scapegoating over the Great Depression, but the system at the time was mixed and the collapse had more to do with overproduction of paper reserves, government control of interest rates, and foreign assistance. Statists found the situation politically opportunistic nonetheless.

The time to act is now, before the existing system collapses under its own weight. If the government won't enact the sensible policies, invest in some gold on your own. It'll come in handy when the authorities make the switch out of necessity.

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Our Opinion Editor, Cody Civiero can't even grow a measly peach-fuzz 'stache. This fact is being highlighted and ridiculed in papers throughout campus as well as on the Internet for the world to see. He envies the intimidatingly fearsome cookie duster once sported by a fellow public intellectual, Friedrich Nietzsche. But he also knows that he and Nietzsche shared a misanthropic outlook and a large amount of intellectual curiosity, so at least they can have something in common and Cody can live vicariously through that famous toothbrush. What else can he do? Wear prosthetic handlebars?

GATEWAY OPINION

Increasingly unable to grow facial hair since 2007

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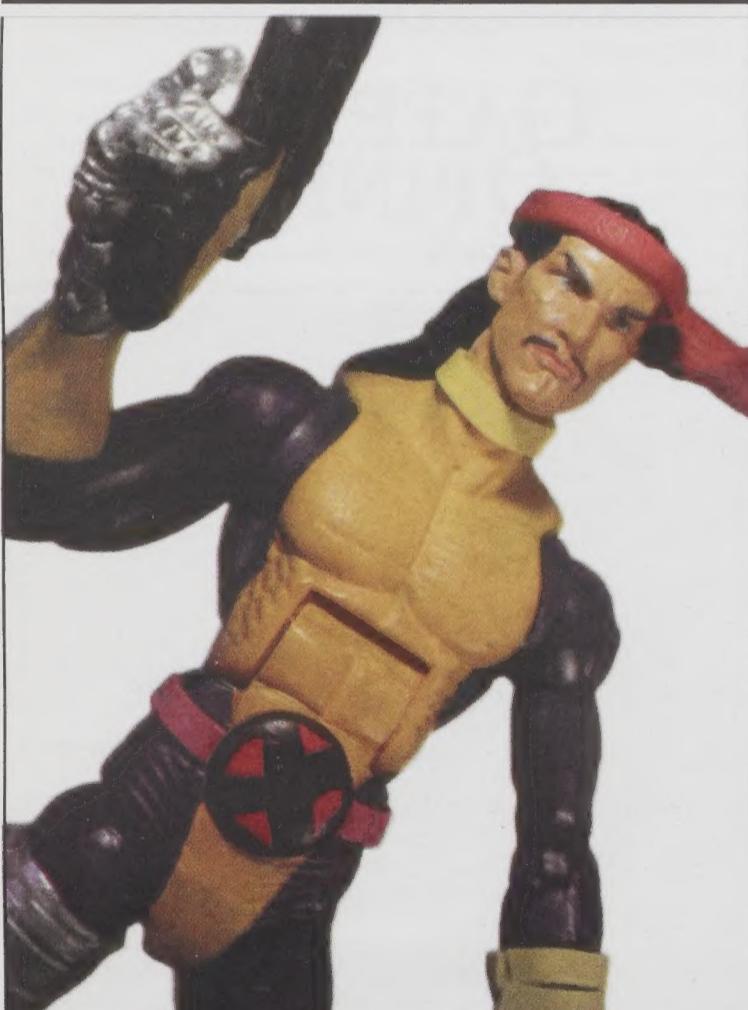
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THE GATEWAY

Rocking red headbands since 1910

Rodeo move proves that Taft is daft

Trumpeting rodeo will make us look like hicks and, worse—attract carnies



JONN
KMECH

Kevin Taft believes is a typical Albertan. Bedecked with a grizzled look of determination, spurred cowboy boots, and well-worn pair of assless chaps, I would then challenge him to a duel at high noon, with the last man standing the victor. If that didn't play out, I would settle for a steer wrestling competition—or to really get down and dirty, a greased pig chase. If Kevin Taft can't even convince people to vote for him, I think it's safe to say he couldn't catch a greased pig either.

With the increasing prevalence of rodeo, it will only increase the ranks of people who you entrust your life to that don't seem to have washed their hands since the first Bush administration.

Apparently having little else to do with his time, Taft is tabling the motion at the Legislature later this month. While no reports could confirm it, one can assume he would proceed to spend the rest of his free time blasting tin cans off of fence posts with his revolver, knocking bandits through swinging saloon doors with well-placed right hooks, or leaping off of second floor balconies onto horseback before riding into the sunset with a swooning barmaid in tow.

The proposal seemed so ludicrous that I felt like moseying up to the Legislature myself to give him an earful. I would go on behalf of all Albertans, so I had to look like a typical Albertan—or at least what

I'll pause for a moment while you

change your underwear. If you happen to be wearing assless chaps though, feel free to disregard that advice.

But seriously, such a legislative motion will cause a massive population explosion of carnies. It's actually been scientifically proven that they can breed asexually during times when their required natural resources are abundant—in this case, cigarettes and Full Throttle. Sales of track suits and gold teeth will skyrocket, while soap and toothpaste sales will flatline.

With the increasing prevalence of rodeo, it will only increase the ranks of people who you entrust your life to that don't seem to have washed their hands since the first Bush administration. But on the other hand (no pun intended), it would make more people qualified to push a red button to start and stop the haunted mansion, count to at least the number six to allow for ticket taking, or lead an Alberta Liberal caucus.

This simply will not do. We can't stand to have any more circus folk parading around the Wild West. Taft must be smoked out of his hole and face the lasso of justice (getting punted from party leadership), before he has a chance to get to the sheriff—who, in this metaphor, would probably be the legislative assembly, I guess—and increase the likelihood of barrel racing and calf roping. Even though he has Johnny Law on his side, I think we can stop him, pilgrim—we just need to head west out of Tumbleweed Gulch by sundown.

Mr cab driver won't stop to pick me up



CONAL
PIERSE

"The problem lies with the city for not providing reasonable transportation. The current number of taxis are sorely insufficient to meet the Friday/Saturday late-night demand, which no doubt contributes to violence amongst patrons as well as passenger-driver conflicts."

Though I used to frequent a multitude of bars and clubs in both the Whyte and Jasper Avenue regions, I now find myself going out less and less. This isn't because I've matured in some manner and have put the days of discretely vomiting in backrooms and urinating in alleys behind me. In fact, up until recently I still did all these things—though in slightly different locales, in order to not seem like an old creep. My problem has nothing to do with the act of going to the bar, it involves the act of getting home once I'm out there.

Unlike the good ol' days when the mere act of going to the bar was new and exciting, a rare few actually volunteer to be the designated driver anymore. And even if you manage to find one, unless you want to leave at 10pm when said driver inevitably becomes fed up with having drunks hang off of them like surly barnacles, you're going to spend an hour waiting out in the cold for a cab that never comes.

You can politely call all of the taxi companies in the city and leave your name, number, and location to the best of your ability, and it won't change anything. Sure, they might send a cab towards your general area, but before it reaches the spot where you patiently wait, some jackal with little regard for personal safety will

rush out into the street and hijack it. Of course, when you call said company back to complain that no yellow chariot has arrived to bring you home, they'll inform you that your cab is still on the way, and will be there in 15–20 minutes. The more astute will wonder why they didn't originally inform you that the cab would arrive in 45 fucking minutes instead of dicking you around, but cursing into the phone will get you nowhere—but then again, neither did politely calling them.

I don't, however, blame the receptionists for misleading me—even if I do yell at them to the contrary—nor do I blame the bastard who took my cab, as he likely had already gone through the same motions some night prior, only to discover their futility. The problem lies with the city for not providing reasonable transportation. The current number of taxis are sorely insufficient to meet the Friday/Saturday late-night demand, which no doubt contributes to violence amongst patrons as well as passenger-driver conflicts—which, in case you didn't know, is the reason for extra two dollar surcharge at night.

Cab companies are already overwhelmed by the demand to get people to the bar, so it comes as no surprise that when 2am hits and the streets are flooded with drunks, that they likewise can't meet that need. But simply

filling the streets with more cabs isn't the best solution to this problem. Though it continues to be ignored, late-night weekend bus service is what's crucially needed.

Unlike cabs, buses can get large numbers of people off the streets and closer to home, while having a minimal impact on the already rampant after-hours congestion. 24-hour bus service week-long may be unfeasible at present, but having the high-ridership bus routes and the LRT running until 3am on Friday and Saturday nights is a necessity.

Combatting violence isn't a simple issue of curtailing how much people spend to get drunk. Though this might lower how inept individuals are, the majority will still be just as drunk, and just as cold and angry on the streets. The worst of the violence that occurs on weekends doesn't happen inside the bars, but rather outside, where there's no security personnel watching.

Increased police presence would help, but drunks are still going to take glassy-eyed gazes the wrong way and go looking for a fight. The best way to combat this is to get them home quickly and safely. Because contrary to what City Council thinks, the only effect higher drink prices are going to have is how much of a tip I leave the cabbie I've been stuck waiting over an hour for.

SPORTS

B-Ball Bears looking to quell offensive woes

Facing a Saskatchewan Huskies team with a 1-3 record, Alberta hopes to start sinking more baskets than their previous four tilts



MORE LIKE HARVEY BIRDMAN Bears guard Harvey Bradford (23) reaches high to recover the ball.

NICK FROST
Sports Editor

The Golden Bears basketball team (1-3) returns home this weekend to try and turn their recent fortunes when they take on the Saskatchewan Huskies (1-3) at the Main Gym. Despite pulling out a narrow victory against the Trinity Western Spartans to split their last weekend set in Mainland BC, Alberta continues to struggle out of the gate with a measly 63.2 points per game, which has them currently sitting in last place in the Central Division of the Canada West Conference.

Head coach Don Horwood hasn't been completely unhappy with his team's effort on the defensive end of the court, but has been less than impressed with his players' recent tendency to miss open shots. The Bears are sporting a .414 field goal percentage, good for eighth in the conference—according to Horwood, this stat needs to be turned around quickly.

"Right now, obviously, we're having trouble scoring," Horwood said. "In the last six games, we've averaged about 61 points per game, and I believe that we do have the scorers, but we're just not scoring—right now, they're struggling a little bit confidence-wise and until they start hitting those shots, they're probably going to stay that way."

"Saturday night, we had a lot of open shots and we should've been burying Trinity Western. We kept missing them and kept giving them a chance to stay in the game. Effort-wise over the last couple of weekends, I've been happy, but we have to get on track in the scoring area."

Despite the lack of production up front, the Bears are making sure to remain calm and not put themselves into a panic situation. With only four games completed to date, Horwood knows that his players still have time to turn things around, and that weekends like this—against teams with similar records—provide the perfect opportunity to make the change.

"I don't think there's a sense of urgency, but everybody wants to win at this level. We've started this way before—we've been 1-3 to start the season—and I think that a lot of it has to do with your schedule," Horwood explained. "I mean, if we had played Winnipeg, and Manitoba, and Thompson Rivers, and Fraser Valley in the first four games, we'd probably be 4-0 right now and everybody would think that we're great. UBC is the top team in the country right now and we've played them; we also played Victoria who is ranked fairly high."

"Right now, I think we're moving in the right direction—we've played the four BC teams, so we've started off with a difficult schedule, and there's other teams in our conference who've started off against the easiest teams. The record is a little bit misleading, but it's still 1-3 and we want to get better. I don't know if there's a sense of urgency, but these games are big."

Saskatchewan comes into this weekend as a team that's also been struggling to put up wins as of late. With the Huskies having undergone some turnover in the past year—particularly having to deal with the graduation of former Canada West All-Star Andrew Spagrud—they've had to face an uphill battle, but the Bears know that their rivals from Saskatchewan will be battling just as hard to regain some momentum as they will.

"Saskatchewan's been a surprise so far—they lost four of their starters," Horwood noted. "We thought they'd be way down this year, but they got [Showron Glover] this year from Fresno, California who's really made a difference for them at the guard-spot, and some of the younger players who've been watching Spagrud and some of the other veterans get all the minutes over the last few years are getting a chance to play, and they're playing with a lot of energy and confidence. These are key games for us, and I know that Saskatchewan is going to be a handful for us."

The Golden Bears hit the court against the Huskies on Friday and Saturday night in the Main Gym at 8pm.

Pandas seek larger victory margins over hoop Huskies

NICK FROST
Sports Editor

Another year of nail-biting battles between cross-provincial rivals will commence for the first of two showdowns this season when the Pandas basketball team (3-1) takes to the court against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies (2-2) at home this weekend.

For the past five seasons, these two teams have split at least one of their weekend sets, and in six straight seasons, Alberta has been defeated at least once per season by their rivals to the east, solidifying the matchup between these two teams as one that both Pandas and Huskies look forward to every year.

"There's always a big rivalry with Calgary—I think that goes without saying. Outside of the Dinos, however, Saskatchewan has definitely become our biggest rival over the last few years," Pandas head coach Scott Edwards noted.

"We're always competing with each other to get out of our division and into the Canada West finals. These are important games for us—if we can get a couple of wins, it will help us move up on them and bring us closer to our goal of winning our division."

One of the biggest factors that contributes to the closeness of each battle between Alberta and Saskatchewan over the past five years is the fact that both programs manage their personnel and style of play in similar ways.

"They're a very competitive team, very well coached, and our styles are fairly similar to each other—to get a sweep in either team's gym is a

pretty difficult task," Edwards explained. "We were able to sweep them in their gym last year in the second half of the season, and we actually shot the ball really well that weekend. For us, now, that's our big issue, but we're defending really well this year and playing with great tempo and intensity, but we have to find a way to compete better offensively and knock down some shots when needed."

"Saskatchewan has definitely become our biggest rival over the last few years."

SCOTT EDWARDS
PANDAS BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

After picking up their first loss of the season last weekend against the CIS number-one ranked Simon Fraser Clan, the Pandas slipped to number-two in the country after being on top of the weekly rankings for the first time in nearly a decade. However, according to Edwards, the slip does nothing to hinder their confidence and will not be present in his team's head as they prepare for this weekend.

"We know that our conference is the toughest in the country and every time we step out on the court, we know that it's going to be a challenge," Edwards said.

"It's nice to be ranked because it helps me with recruiting when I'm talking to kids about our program, but in terms of the team itself,



ONE-HANDED DEFENCE Pandas point guard Ashley Wigg (7) charges to the hoop against Victoria.

we don't talk about it a lot. We celebrated being number one on Tuesday because it was the first time in nearly ten years that our team had been number one, but we don't put much stock into it otherwise."

Going into their matchups with Saskatchewan, Alberta knows that the one area they need to improve is offence. With their top-scorer Ashley Wigg sitting 27th in conference scoring at 10.3 points per game, Edwards knows that the high intensity that his team has been dedicating on the defensive end this year needs to be more

evenly distributed on both sides of the court.

"We've played them 15 times in the last two years, so it's not like the kids don't know each other well by now," Edwards said. "They have pretty much the same team that they did last year in terms of personnel, and it's going to be a really tough weekend for us. We're going to have to come compete hard and defend tough and actually put some points on the board this weekend—that'd be nice to see."

Tipoff goes at 6pm on both Friday and Saturday night at the Main Gym.

Snow-covered tomfoolery made childhood winters fun

Messing around with GTs and field sports made far more difficult by multiple feet of snow highlight the days of Gateway youth



SPORTS STAFF

Group Commentary

With the first dusting of flurries that fell over parts of the city Monday evening came the realization that winter is rapidly approaching and Mother Nature is sure to be sending us inches and inches of snow sooner rather than later.

Back in the days of elementary, junior high, or—for the more adaptable of winter scoundrels—high school, things were far more carefree. It was a time defined by downhill sliding, fort-building, snow angels, and turning once safety- and rule-conscious summer sports into absolute free-for-alls in three feet of snow. Here at Gateway Sports, we've done a little reminiscing of our own about the activities that made our childhood winters special.

Hai Doan

When people say that soccer and snow don't mix, they obviously never experienced my favourite winter sport the way it was played at my elementary school. My schoolyard chums and I would often kick around a soccer ball at recess, and the fact that there was snow up to our knees didn't deter us from proceeding with our game.

Actually kicking the ball would often prove to be extremely difficult,

though, seeing as how the soccer ball was light enough to sit on the surface of the snow, above our knees. In order to actually move the ball, we had to shuffle through the white stuff and use our legs to push it along the top towards the goal. An attempt to kick the ball would involve moving more snow than the actual ball, which would simply roll a short distance.

On the occasion that we managed to shuffle the ball towards the goal, the keeper would easily save it and throw it into a section of untouched snow. This resulted in a group of grade three and four kids attempting to rush through the snow to retrieve the loose ball and, believe me, much pushing and shoving ensued. In fact, I remember one of my friends changing direction and heading away from the goal to avoid the mass of children chasing after him to steal the ball.

The aftermath of our recess activities saw the furnaces in the classroom being lined with gloves and socks waiting to dry. Good times, indeed.

Patricia Ariss

Winter can be such a drag, but what I can't help but think of when the first giant flakes fall are the memories of carefree days spent in -30 weather. Reliving the days of childhood winter activities, like trying to dye the snow green on St. Patrick's Day, lies fondly in my trunk of memories. One that sticks out quite vividly is the day my sisters and I lived out what used to be a favourite winter activity: tobogganing through the horse pasture on my

grandparents' ranch.

With horses, cows, and elk, we had to be very careful of where we would sled—but, being the curious and somewhat stupid kids we were, we decided it would be a brilliant idea to go sledding through the horse pasture. On this day, after watching my cousin fly off his GT Snow Racer as a result of sticking the front end of his sled under a snow-covered fallen tree, I decided that I would chase the horses with my GT.

After successfully scattering one small group on my first attempt, I couldn't resist aiming for the alpha female, Barbie. If I could get her on the run, I would impress my two older sisters for once in my life. As things progressed, however, I found myself on the run as Barbie lumbered down the snowy slope after me. All I could do was hope like hell that I reached the fence before she did. As she closed in on me and I realized that I wasn't going to fit under the bottom rail of the fence on my sled, I let out a scream of what seemed like 140dB. Before I could do anything, the rail hit me square in the forehead and I slid under the fence on my back.

As I lay in the snow in excruciating pain, I decided that my days of tobogganing in the horse pasture were at a very quick end. At least it was fun while it lasted.

Nick Frost

From as far back as I can remember, winter just hasn't been winter unless

I'm flying down a snow-covered hill with some unsteady hunk of cheap plastic underneath me supporting my frozen ass all the way to the bottom. Of course, going down the hill and back up again was just the most practical use for my GT and it would get pretty boring after the first seven or eight runs.

As I grew older, I knew that I needed more creative ways to put the fun back into GTing—so, by the time late junior high hit, my friends and I decided to make things more horizontal. Throw in a rope and a minivan with a hitch, and you have my favourite childhood winter activity: carbogganing.

The gang and I would pile into my friend's van, tie the GT to the back, and take turns riding through short stretches of residential neighborhoods. One person would ride shotgun and keep an eye out for people living in the area who might report us, while everyone else would pile into the back and watch each rider through the window. Think of it in the same category as jet-skiing or wakeboarding, only with snow blowing into your face at 50 km/h. The excitement was palpable.

Sure, we should have known better at that age, but we still made sure that we took the necessary precautions to ensure safety—we carried out this activity on stretches of road by green belts or ravines or in empty church parking lots, at night when there were fewer cars on the road, and at very manageable speeds.

Unfortunately, my friends and I only ever did it during that one winter, but to this day, we still talk about how it was some of the most fun that we've had during the season.

Now that I've finished waxing anecdotal, I must recommend that our fine Gateway readers not try this themselves—there's still always a chance that you could get injured or, at the very least, ratted out by paranoid suburban parents.

Conal Pierce

When I was young, my friends and I would always patiently await the first snowfall with the knowledge that it would bring the most fun—and most dangerous—of childhood snow wrestling. Hopped up on juice boxes and peanut butter, we'd mark off a crude ring, partner off, and commence a battle royale.

Whereas hard dirt meant pain and injury, a fresh batch of snow was the perfect cushion for when you were tombstoned. Of course, snow didn't protect you from flying dropkicks, clotheslines, or high-flying elbows—which is the reason it was immediately banned by school staff following the first, tooth-chipping brawl of the season.

Of course, due to our young age and undeveloped physiques, we weren't quite able to pull off all of our favourite moves, but we did our best to maim and injure one another in the name of fun—plus the occasional revenge nut shot to the bastard who stole your glue stick.

Open House Cancer Research

Friday, November 21, 2008
1:00-5:00 pm

Rm 2279, 2nd Floor, Cross Cancer Institute,
11560 University Avenue, Edmonton, AB

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The Department of Oncology, located at the Cross Cancer Institute is hosting an Open House for all undergraduate students interested in pursuing graduate studies in cancer research at the University of Alberta.

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For more information about the program, please contact
Cathy Walsh at cathy.walsh@meds.ualberta.ca



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Silver medal, unlikely run provide a fitting end for field hockey's Mason

NICK FROST
Sports Editor

It wasn't quite the storybook ending she'd hoped for, but with her final season of CIS field hockey having recently wrapped up in Victoria, Pandas forward Erin Mason certainly doesn't consider her silver medal to be a consolation prize.

In fact, considering the team's slow start to the year and the effort put together in making a run to the CIS Championships, for the Kelowna native—who recently completed her fifth year of league eligibility—the 2008 season was provided a fitting finish to her career and role as of one of the Pandas on-field leaders.

"It was really incredible—we started off the year by going over to Australia and playing really well, and everyone had really high hopes for the team," Mason recalls. "We came back to Edmonton, but we kind of lulled for portions of the season—we'd play well one game and then not really consistent the next game. When we finally got there, everyone showed up to play, and I was really proud of the team."

While leaving behind a maturing group of young field hockey players—one that she believes has a bright future—the 22-year-old mechanical engineering student now looks ahead to the prospect of returning to being a full-time student without the weekly interaction between her and her teammates in



FINISHING STRONG It's the end of the road for Erin Mason with the Pandas.

game and practice scenarios.

"Well, I'm already starting to get bored a week after the fact," Mason jokes. "But, yeah, I'm going to miss the girls, and being on the road having that support, and the competitiveness. There's not a lot of field hockey being played in Canada, so to get to play at the university level is quite a privilege—it's one of the highest levels in the country."

Nevertheless, Mason holds no regrets from her time with the Pandas. In fact, when discussing the past five years of her life, the Pandas forward had nothing but an endless stream of memories. Amidst a slew of individual successes—including

Canada West All-Star honours in 2007 and 2008—Mason will be hard pressed to ever forget the success shared with teammates of past championship runs.

"In 2005, when we won at nationals—especially in the final, where I scored the game-tying goal—that was one of the biggest highlights of my career," Mason says. "My other one would probably be at nationals this year when we played Toronto and, at the end of the game, we were still unsure whether or not we'd qualified for the finals. There was a lot of anticipation and not knowing, and then it was just like, 'finally, it's our time.' "

SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by Matt Pretty

Golden Bears Hockey

The CIS number-one ranked Golden Bears head out on the road to Winnipeg this weekend, as they face off against the Manitoba Bisons in a two-game set. Alberta sits at 8-2-0 after sweeping the Lethbridge Pronghorns last weekend and look to gain ground on the idle Saskatchewan Huskies, while Manitoba is 5-5-2 after two wins in Calgary last weekend over the Dinos.

Bears starting goalie Aaron Sorochan has been red-hot since his return from injury on Halloween, allowing only four goals in four starts. He leads Canada West with a 1.15 goals-against-average and a .948 save percentage. Manitoba will counter with another solid netminder, as Steve Christie was just named Canada West Hockey Player of the Week after a sweep of the Dinos. Faceoff is at 6pm on both Friday and Saturday.

Pandas Volleyball

keep it that way as conference-leading scorer Breanne George, who has 21 points in only ten games, will try to turn that margin around to the Huskies' side using the Canada West's second-ranked power play. The puck drops at 6pm on Friday night and at 3pm on Saturday afternoon.

Golden Bears Volleyball

The fourth weekend of the conference schedule sees the volleyball-Bears on top of the CIS rankings with a 4-0 record, as they head to Kamloops to play two matches against the Thompson Rivers Wolfpack. The 'Pack—ranked ninth nationally at 3-1 in conference play—are coming off a home split against the UBC Thunderbirds.

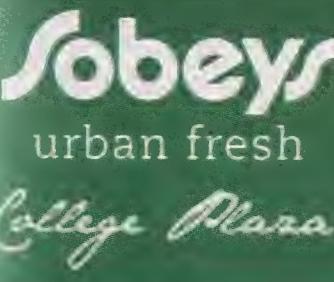
Alberta had the bye last weekend and posted a home sweep of UBC before that. The Bears and TRU are one-two in Canada West hitting percentage standings, so this weekend's matches should be a killer affair. First serve on both Friday and Saturday will go at 8:30pm.

Pandas Volleyball

The Pandas volleyballers are also undefeated on the year at 6-0 and are ranked second nationally behind the Montreal Carabins. Last weekend, Alberta vanquished the Simon Fraser Clan with two 3-0 wins at home, while their Thompson Rivers counterparts (1-5) dropped two matches by the same 3-0 score to the pesky UBC Thunderbirds.

The Pandas are serving up aces like a blackjack dealer with over two per game this season to lead the conference, and their hitting attack is ranked second.

TRU's woeful defence—second-last in digs and blocks and last in opponent hitting percentage—could see some sizeable dents in their own gym floor after this weekend's matches. The ladies' tilts start at 7pm on both Friday and Saturday.



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Backstage Pass

PART 2 OF 3

Behind the scenes with Golden Bears hockey on game night



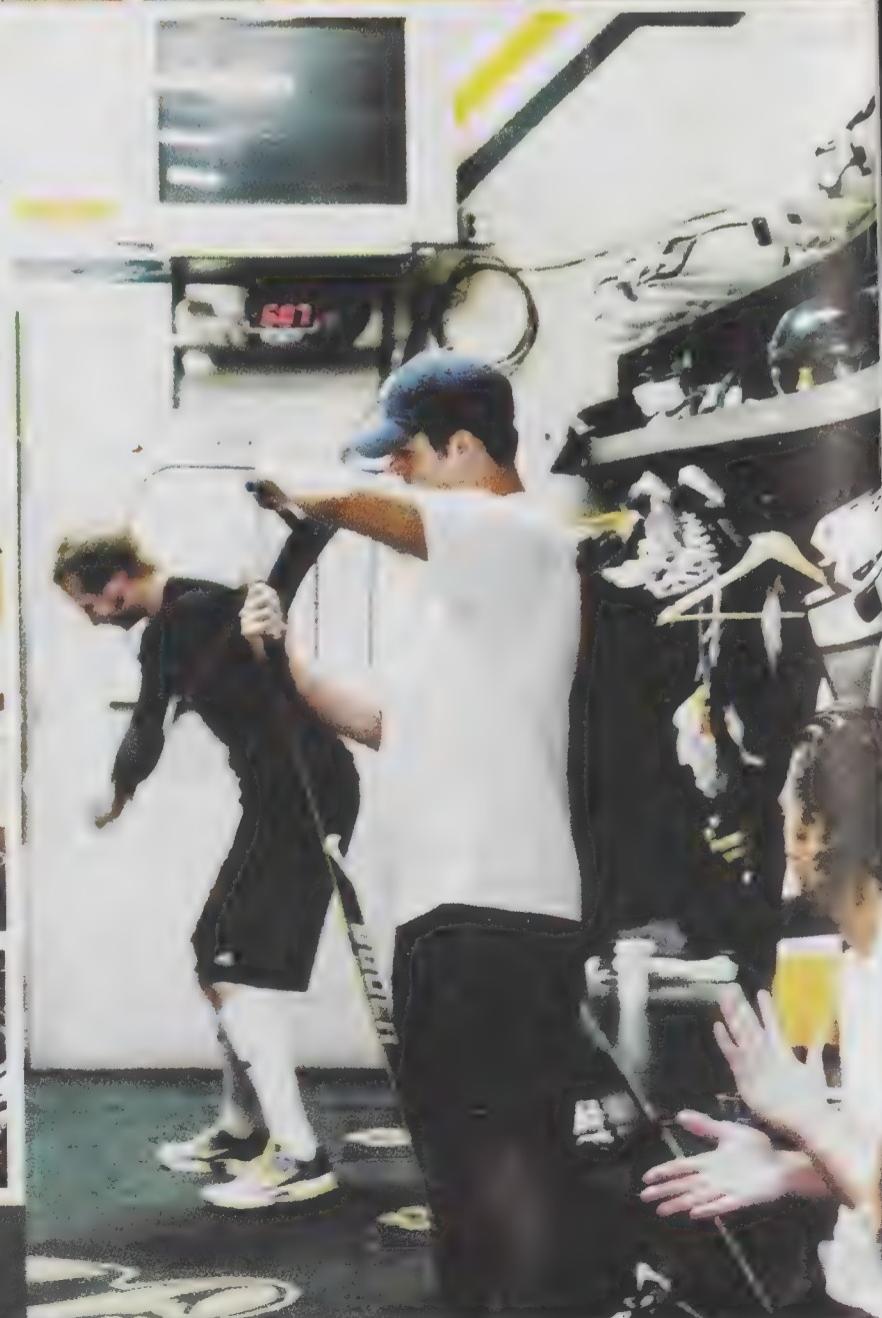
HOCKEY NIGHT IN CLARE DRAKE.

On the evening of 1 November 2008, the Gateway was given the opportunity to follow the Golden Bears hockey team as they faced off against the University of Regina Cougars. This night also happens to be the night of the banner ceremony and the presentation of the University Cup for their win at the 2007/08 CIS Hockey national championships.

As the Gateway enters the locker room, the Bears have filled the room and are playing to the tunes of mid-nineties rockers Monster Magnet. Coach Eric Thurston assembles the team for the traditional pre-game pep talk. After an hour of individual and team preparation fueled by Starbucks and PowerGels, one by one they file out behind veteran goaltender Aaron Sorochan.



It is amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit





SOCIAL
INTERCOURSEJames Loney, Prisoner in Iraq:
Experiences of a Gay, Christian,
Peace Activist

Sunday, 16 November at 11am
Metro Cinema (9828-101A Ave)
Tickets available for \$20 at tixonthesquare.ca
and the Pride Centre (9540-111Ave)

Captured by Iraqi insurgents in 2005 and held for 118 days before his rescue by British and American forces, James Loney was forced to live a nightmare few have had to imagine.

Loney, an openly gay Christian peace activist, is the Canadian program coordinator of Christian Peacemaker Teams and has served on violence-reduction projects in Iraq, the West Bank, and within First Nations communities throughout Canada. He is also currently working on a book about his experiences in Iraq.

As part of the University of Alberta's Festival of Ideas and Edmonton's second annual presentation of *Exposure: Edmonton's Queer Arts and Culture Festival*, Loney will bring the story of his life of activism, his struggles as an open homosexual in a hetero-oriented world, and his imprisonment in Iraq to the stage, followed by an informal question and answer period.

Proceeds from the event will go towards Edmonton's Pride Centre and funding the Michael Phair award, a U of A/ISMSS scholarship.

University of Alberta Centenary
Celebration Concert

Monday, 17 November at 8 pm
Winspear Centre (99 St and 102 Ave)
\$20 at tickets.winspearcentre.com

Led by renowned cellist and longtime orchestra conductor Tanya Prochazka, the University Symphony Orchestra will join the romantic and emotional voice of bass-baritone Canadian Brian McIntosh (soloist) and the U of A Madrigal singers for the concert of the centenary.

Brian McIntosh is a staple among North American opera companies and has worked extensively around Europe. More recently, his work includes Sacristan in *Tosca* with the Calgary Opera, as well as *Haly in Italiana* in Algeri with the Vancouver Opera.

The program will consist of Giuseppe Verdi's *Macbeth* and *Don Carlo*, *Manon* by Jules Massenet, and Albert Lortzing's *Der Wildschutz*. To cap off the evening, the USO will perform Gustav Holst's *The Planets* in all of their transcendent glory.

James Blunt

With Luke Doucet and The White Falcon
Wednesday, 19 November at 7:30pm
Rexall Place (7424-118 Ave)
\$34-59 at ticketmaster.ca

There's no word yet on how James Blunt is taking his recent loss of best male pop/rock artist at the World Music Awards to Kid Rock. But the other contestants vying for the spot included Enrique Iglesias and Michael Jackson, so look at the bright side—the whole thing could have been much more embarrassing. At least he's got the pure white snowfall of central Alberta to lighten his days.

Seriously though, snow-blindness is a legitimate concern out here. A crisp new sheet of snow is beautiful—beautiful, it's true—but certainly not worth a visit to the hospital, so why not join James inside and listen to him play music instead of making snowmen?

The crooner and former British Army Life Guard—think the army regiment, not the red swimsuits—will pass through Edmonton, melting women's hearts faster than marshmallows in a microwave with his sexy soulful jams.

SEAN STEELS
In all his transcendent glory

We're here, we're queer, you're used to it

But even in their 17th season, Darrin Hagen's annual drag cabaret still have tricks in their fake buns

theatrepreview

Loud and Queer Cabaret

Produced by Guys In Disguise and Workshop West
Directed by Darrin Hagen
Starring Darrin Hagen and Kristy Harcourt
14-15 November at 7:30pm
La Cité Francophone (8627-91 Street)
\$21.75 at tixonthesquare.com

SIMON YACKULIC
Arts & Entertainment Staff

"It's not called cross-dressing—it's called drag!" says Darrin Hagen, emphatically making the distinction clear. "Cross-dressing is what straight guys do when they're jerking off with their wives' clothes on. I'm a drag performer, a drag queen, a drag artiste."

Drag artistry will certainly form a focal point in the upcoming 17th annual *Loud and Queer Cabaret*, touted as the "longest running queer writers' showcase of its kind in western Canada." The event will also open the second annual *Exposure: Edmonton's Queer Arts and Culture Festival*.

Hagen, who will be directing the proceedings, is currently a writer for the drag troupe Guys in Disguise and has always had a soft spot for drag performance, which has had an immensely positive effect on his long theatrical career. The Neo Nancies, Hitler's Kickline, BitchSlap!, Li'l Orphan Tranny, and The Edmonton Queen: Not A Riverboat Story are only a handful of the numerous successful performances that he has written and been involved in.

Hagen acknowledges the significance of the upcoming *Loud and Queer* event in Edmonton's queer culture, but he also believes straight people will find the Cabaret a thrilling event to take in—if only to witness the sense of belonging that appears to bind this Edmonton counter-culture together.

"You'd be blown away by the sense of community at the event. Everybody knows each other, everybody knows the artists; the artists have been supported by this audience sometimes since their first steps," Hagen enthusiastically explains. "You'll get to see people taking their absolutely first creative steps—which I think is really exciting—and put them on stage next to people who have got two albums out, or have been published. It's amazing to me that the only difference between the work that's been around for a while and the work that hasn't is just the fact that one's less familiar than the other. Some of the brand new work stands right alongside the professional work and compares very favourably to that."

As well, this Cabaret that Guys In Disguise is putting together will be arranged as a sampler of the entire queer art form. Outsiders desiring to take a peek at queer theatre are assured that the breadth of entertainment will rival a Fringe festival and should cover all sorts of angles. Hagen himself emphasizes that the diversity of acts will be breathtaking.

"You're going to go from the Will and Grace comedy scene to the dark lesbian poetry, to some sort of activist beat-poet stuff, to native spiritual writers writing these prayers to the earth—stuff that actually transcends the queer experience, but it's coming from the queer imagination. And I think it shows that queer people are not obsessed with being queer."

"I think that if you come to Loud and Queer, you'll realize that there's a lot more on the minds of gays, lesbians, and transgenders than sex," Hagen continues. "We care about the planet, we care about the world, we care about the political situation [...] and I think that because it comes from a queer imagination, it will be a new insight into some of these things that you've never seen before."



Hagen—named by the Edmonton City Council as one of the 100 Edmontonians of the Century due to his involvement in arts and gender activism—started on the path to where he is today by simply watching a performance of drag in this city that has since shaped his career.

"I think that if you come to Loud and Queer, you'll realize that there's a lot more on the minds of gays, lesbians, and transgenders than sex. We care about the planet, we care about the world, we care about the political situation."

DARRIN HAGEN
DIRECTOR/ACTOR, LOUD AND QUEER CABARET

"I showed up in Edmonton when I was 18 and went to a club called Flashback and saw my first drag show and knew it was something I had to do—it's a calling," Hagen says.

Since then, his beloved Flashback club has

closed, but the drag troupe that began there subsequently went on to tour Alberta, Canada, and the United States. With this success, Hagen and Guys in Disguise use opportunities such as the Loud and Queer Cabaret to give back to their community and encourage others to replicate their success.

"Loud and Queer is about nurturing writers and creating a queer writing community," Hagen explains. "By giving the writers and artists an opportunity to showcase their stuff, you actually create a community of queer writers, as opposed to just nurturing what's already there."

Hagen is also encouraged by the format that the two evening spectacles will have for reasons other than simply the diversity of performances. Rapid-fire scene changing will ensure that the audience remains attentive for every new act of the show, so fans who favour dark lesbian poetry or activist beat poetry won't have to wait long for their preferred performance.

"In terms of sheer variety, what I love about it is that we have a fifteen minute time limit on everything. If you don't like something, it's going to be over in fifteen minutes, so there will be something new coming right behind it. So that keeps it fresh, too."

A little bit country, a little bit cock and roll

Detailing the life of vulgar musician Larry Pierce, *Dirty Country* is as sentimental as it is indecent

film review

Dirty Country

Directed by Joe Pickett and Nick Prueher

Starring Larry Pierce

13-15 and 17 November

Metro Cinema (9828-101A Avenue)

AARON YEO

If you've ever thought that modern rap and hip-hop revolve too much around sex, you clearly haven't heard of dirty country music. That is, traditional country music featuring lyrics about peckers, pussies, scrotums, and sodomy. Make a film chronicling this indecency and you get *Dirty Country*, a documentary about filthy music and Larry Pierce, an honest man making an honest living singing songs about sex.

The journey starts off by introducing the largely underground genre with a focus on Pierce, a middle-aged man from Middletown, Indiana, with a passion for writing lewd and rude country tunes. He's not the only one in the business, as the movie goes on to feature other vulgar artists, such as Doug Clark's Hot Nuts and Blowfly, who also claims to be the father of rap. Thanks to these individuals, the genre has accumulated a cult following centered mostly around truck stops and gas stations throughout the Midwest.

Pierce really sees no need for ambiguous innuendo and metaphors, as he happily churns out songs ranging from the straightforward "Fucking You is Always on My Mind" and "I'd Like to Fuck Your Brains Out," to the somewhat more meaningful "Keep Your Pussy Clean."

Due to the nature of his music, Pierce gets little recognition for his work, with radios and larger record label companies refusing to even listen to



his material. However, those who have heard his tunes love him. "Anyone who can rhyme scrotum and genitalia is all right in my books!" exclaims Michael Glaser, bassist for the band -itis.

Halfway through the film, the focus moves from exploring the lewd genre back to Pierce, and the mood shifts from humorous to melodramatic as we learn that he has lost his job of 30 years and has been forced into early retirement. But fear not, as -itis, a mildly successful dirty rock band that has idolized Pierce and his music for years, comes to the rescue with an offer he can't refuse. They present to him the resources and the motivation to go on tour with them and give him the fame and recognition he so rightfully deserves, which takes both bands and the movie crew across the nation.

As a documentary, *Dirty Country* also features the typical round of interviews with Pierce's friends and family, record label reps, devout fans,

authors of relevant books, and the few experts of this style of music. At first, Pierce's story seems so ridiculous you'll find yourself asking if it's actually true. There are numerous moments that make you laugh and smile not from the jokes, but from the pure craziness.

It's always entertaining to see an elderly woman happily take a big bite out of a cock-shaped cake to the words of one of Pierce's songs. All of the bands included in the film also give elaborately obscene stage shows revolving around oversized rubber penises, blow-up dolls, and rude gestures, which only compliments their songs that are bluntly about sex and masturbation.

From start to finish, *Dirty Country* will drop your jaw in awe as it combines an amazing personal story, no-nonsense shock humour, and hilarious inside views of the massively underappreciated genre of dirty country and the underground raunchy music industry.



FOR THE WEEK ENDING

TUESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER

1. VARIOUS

CJSR FunDrive Compilation 2008
(CJSR FM 88.5)

2. DB BUXTON REVUE

No Refund
(Independent)

3. MICHAEL RAULT

Crash! Bang! Boom!
(Chickadee)

4. MOTHER MOTHER

O My Heart
(Last Gang)

5. MATT PERRI

Let's
(Independent)

6. FEMBOTS

Calling Out
(Weewerk)

7. WOODPIGEON

Treasury Library Canada
(Awesome Calgary Awesome)

8. CHAD VANGAALEN

Soft Airplane
(Flemish Eye/Sub Pop)

9. ALL GIRL SUMMER FUN BAND

Looking Into It
(Independent)

10. BLIND TIGER, TIGER

What The Hammer? What The Chain?
(Independent)

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2nd Floor, Agriculture-Forestry Centre

University of Alberta

Contact Robin at 780-492-0271 or robin.mcclelland@ualberta.ca for further info.
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Role Models provides touching vulgarity**filmreview****Role Models**

Directed by David Wain

Starring Paul Rudd and

Seann William Scott

Now Playing

PAUL KNOECHEL
Arts & Entertainment Staff**Role Models** is a film that seems uncertain of what kind of movie it wants to be.

On the one hand, you have the very PG-13 plotline of guys who shouldn't be around kids who get in trouble and are forced to mentor a pair, only to be changed by the experience and help the very charges they were afraid to mess up in the first place. On the other hand, the movie will drop a line like "I don't want to get too explicit about the details, but let's just say I used to suck his cock for drugs." It's an odd, odd combination that works so well that in the end, you'll scratch your head a bit—but only a little because you'll still be chuckling.

The film centers on Danny (Paul Rudd) and Wheeler (Seann William Scott), two representatives for the energy drink Minotaur that end up pulling 150 hours of community service to avoid hard jail time after crashing their company vehicle that was in the process of being towed. In comes Sturdy Wings, a sort of Big

Brother-type of organization, and the two young'ns for our protagonists to mentor, who will—like in all movies with this kind of plotline—eventually teach them important life lessons.

If that summary sounds formulaic, that's because it is. *Role Models* isn't out to stretch the boundaries of cinema, but to take the very familiar feel-good movie plot and toss in enough decent jokes and one liners along with boobs and obscenity to make it worthwhile. It's like someone got a hold of a soon-to-be-released Disney family flick, then gave it an adult slant. Again, it's something that you feel shouldn't work, but when it does so well in the end, you find yourself pleasantly surprised.

Role Models isn't out to stretch the boundaries of cinema, but to take the very familiar feel-good movie plot and toss in enough decent jokes and one liners along with boobs and obscenity.

While the movie technically stars Rudd and Scott, it's the former that's really the star. And while this might seem like an odd choice when Seann William Scott is playing his typecast Stifler character to a tee, it's Rudd that really shines in his role as a

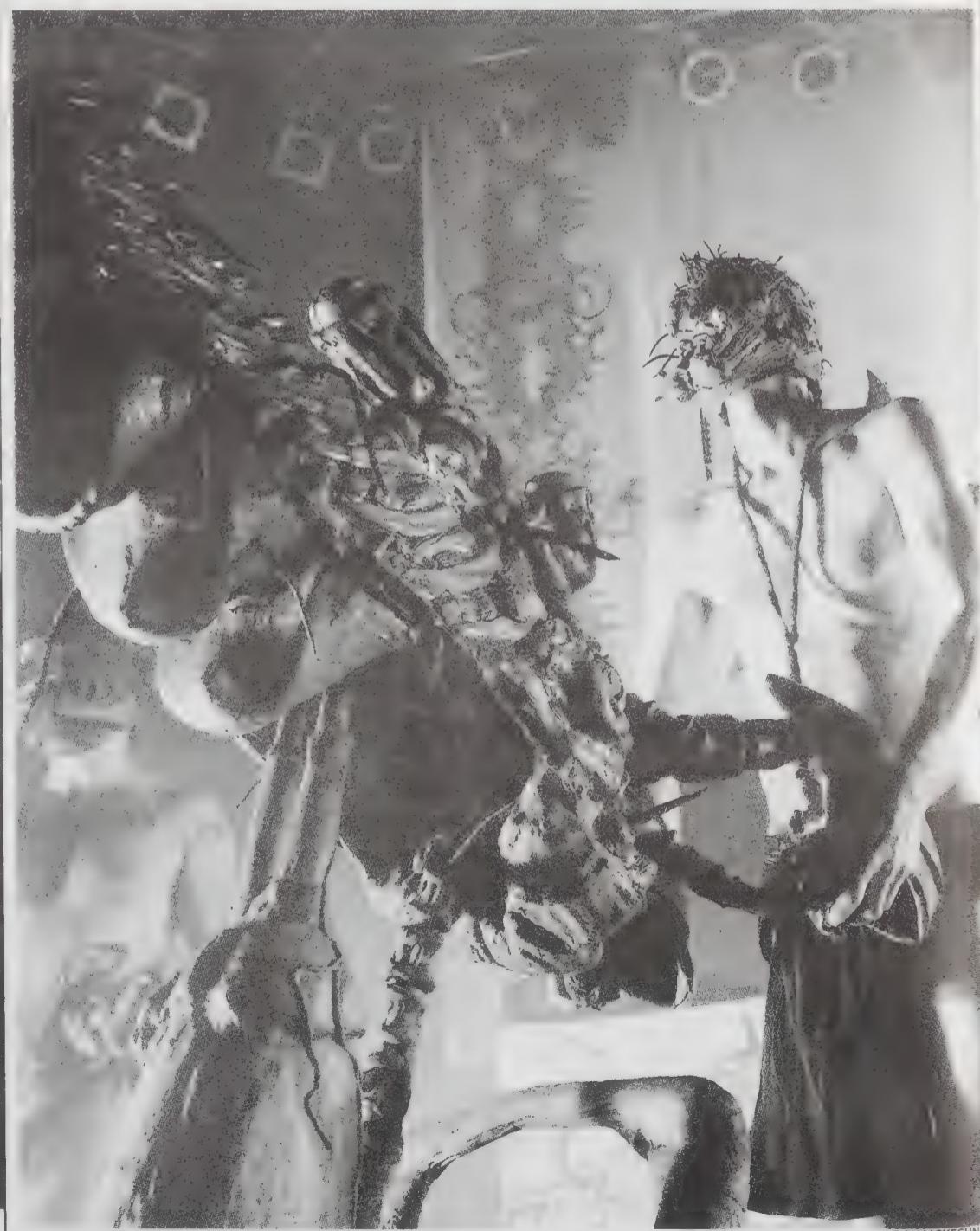
remarkably depressed and despondent man whose dreams and life seem to be slipping away from him.

Sure, it sounds a little depressing, but it works for the movie, as he finds a middle ground that's real enough to avoid caricature, yet relatable enough to keep the overall mood light.

But even above the title actors, the supporting cast comes out with excellent performances all around. Ronnie (Bobb'e J Thompson), the boy who is Wheeler's responsibility, is so shockingly abrasive that you doubt he's as young as he plays in the movie. Christopher Mintz-Plasse of Superbad fame plays Augie, and shows us that not only can he play a nerd, but he can play the nerd very well, and in back-to-back roles; he has a fine typecast career ahead of him if he so chooses.

Elizabeth Banks plays the simple role of Danny's love interest as well as could be expected, and Jane Lynch brings to life the irritating and frustrating role of the founder of Sturdy Wings wonderfully—think of an angrier version of Michael Scott from *The Office*. From top to bottom the cast really makes this movie worth watching.

Role Models really was a surprise, because it has all the signs of a really terrible movie. But between the excellent job of the cast, the interesting mix of feel-good obscenity, and laugh-out-loud moments—Wheeler explaining to Ronnie just how much ass the band KISS got comes to mind immediately—*Role Models* is worth the price of admission.



HE DIDN'T HAVE THE DECENCY TO WEAR A SHIRT One of Gwar's slaves performs non-union labour manipulating this stage prop last Saturday night when the metal gods descended into Edmonton Events Center for a night of carnage. DAN MCKECHNIE



Metis heritage fuels Ghostkeeper

musicpreview

Ghostkeeper

With Vox Humana and Johnny Feelgood
Friday, 14 November at 9pm
Velvet Underground (10030-102 Street), 18+
\$10 at the door

ALICE DOLPHIN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

When you stumble upon Ghostkeeper's MySpace page, you're struck by their self-proclaimed title of "modern Metis mythmakers." While the alliterative statement may come off as pretentious at first glance, the band has certainly backed it up with an interesting and original collection of melodies in their initial album *Children of the Great Northern Muskeg*.

"I like to think romantically that I just have Metis music in my blood and that's how come I arrange the tunes the way I do," laughs Shane Ghostkeeper, vocalist, songwriter, and guitarist for the group that bears his name.

Having never wielded a guitar until the age of 16, Shane didn't bother with any lessons—he just let the music flow out of him, replacing his father's aspirations of an NHL career for him.

"I just went at it. Just the freedom of my situation and how I approached it

was all part of the allure."

This lure called him and Sarah Houle, his band mate (and "soulmate," he good-naturedly admits) to Calgary. Like Shane, Sarah is a self-taught musician and together, they gave birth to their first album that pays homage to their friends up in the northern Muskeg—all of their friends.

"The album is for all the folks in the Muskeg. It's not just for the Metis or the full blooded Indians; it's for the white kids I grew up with, too."

"I like to think romantically that I just have Metis music in my blood and that's how come I arrange the tunes the way I do."

SHANE GHOSTKEEPER
VOCALIST/GUITARIST, GHOSTKEEPER

1073 km from his place of heritage, Ghostkeeper has discovered a totally different music-making scene. The band has dropped roots in a world of creativity where they can learn from the ingenuity of other musicians.

"Being up north, I seemed to have been the only one writing my own tunes, if not writing tunes that weren't genre tunes," Ghostkeeper explains. "There were young punk bands that

played by all the rules and country cover bands, and classic rock cover bands, so coming to the city is so much more inspiring and motivating."

Attempting to find his own musical voice without any prior training isn't the only aspect of the business that Shane wrangles with. He also wrestles with the tensions from managing both a working relationship and a romantic relationship with Sarah Houle.

"Holy shit, it's like definitely the most outrageous maintenance ever!" he exclaims. "We're never going to get the person to do what we want, what we had in mind, what we expected. You just always have to be giving each other free range—always! And try to keep the criticism constructive."

It's a piece of advice that has seemed to serve him well since, with two more albums on the way, Ghostkeeper might not just be a family name, but a household name as well. However, Shane doesn't want you to be misled by their band's moniker.

"This is mine and Sarah's project," he insists. "She works as much on this project as I do. I want everyone to realize that just because we chose my last name, doesn't mean it's all my work."

Straightforward and informative, Ghostkeeper is anything but pretentious. Maybe their label of mythmakers isn't just a pretty set of syllables, but rather a prophecy that is bound to come true, with a little bit of time and a lot of learning.

title track will have you blushing with verses about "pornographic girls on film" and "hot blondes in odd positions." Considering the scandalous subject matter presented in most of the album's 12 tracks, it's kind of odd that she chose such a childish stage alias, but Gaga reminds us she's still young at heart with the cutesy "Boys Boys Boys!"

Germanotta has a very powerful and melodic voice and she's not afraid to flaunt her range. Not only can she hit those high notes, but her rapping skills are not too shabby either. The electronic voice warping effects are a tad over-used, but it's still obvious that the girl can sing, especially on the sultry and soulful track "Again Again." Gaga may not make you gaga, but she'll probably get you dancing.

albumreview

Lady Gaga

The Fame
Streamline Records/Interscope

SARAH STEAD
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Gaga, is on a mission to get your body moving.

The Fame is an energetic electronic dance-pop treat with tracks about dancing, falling in and out of love, and of course, being hotter than the average bear. "Lovegame" tantalizes with lyrics like "Let's have some fun / this beat is sick / I wanna take a ride on your disco stick," while the

Faculty of Education Information Sessions

Becoming an Educator

November 19, 2008 5:00pm Tory 1-93

November 24, 2008 12:00pm Tory 1-91

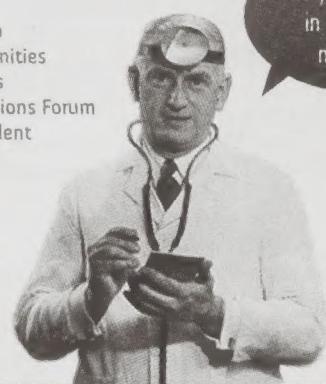
November 26, 2008 12:00pm BioSc M145



The Pre-Medical Students' Association serves as a resource for academic and non-academic information and guidance.

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CONTEST!



Fringe Theatre Adventures is putting on a double theatre feature at the TransAlta Art Barns next week and the Gateway wants to send you! First up is **Dishpig**, a play about the hardships of working as a restaurant dishwasher starring Fringe regulars Greg Landucci and TJ Dawe. Secondly, there's **Jesus in Montana**, a monologue by comedian Barry Smith about his bizarre journey into the heart of a religious cult.

The Gateway is giving away two pairs of tickets which get you into both shows for their opening night, next Thursday, November 20. To enter, write down your worst or strangest restaurant story—either as a worker or as a customer—and send it to contests@gateway.ualberta.ca along with your name, email address and phone number. The deadline for submissions will be Tuesday, November 18th at midnight. The stories will be judged based on clarity, merit of story, hilarity and/or bizarreness, and the winners will be contacted on Wednesday the 19th. Only one submission per person.

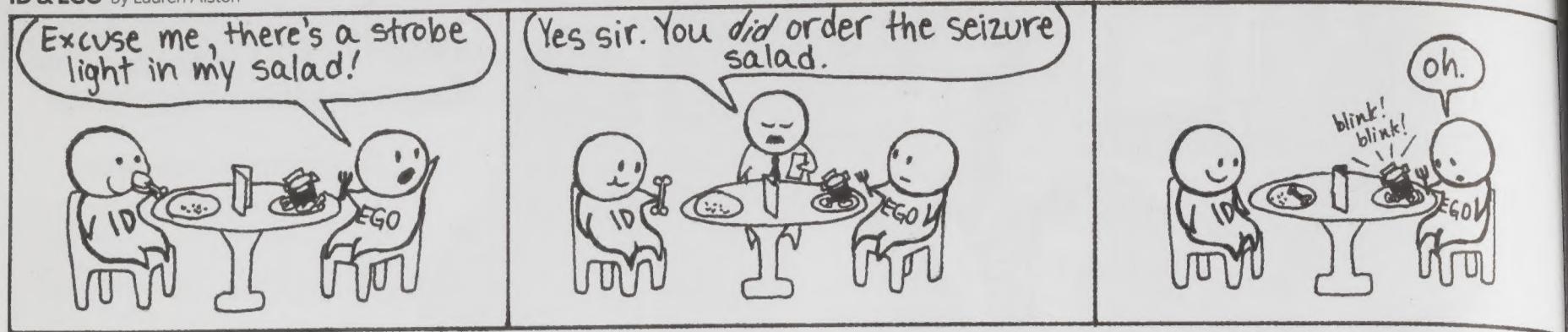
GATEWAY A&E: Tipping you more than 15 per cent since 1910



You've got to be pretty narcissistic to call your first album *The Fame*. Artists are supposed to wait until at least their second album to brag about being famous, rich, and beautiful.

But as tempting as it is to tear into Lady Gaga for this debut album faux pas, her music is good enough that she can be granted a pardon. Twenty-two year old Stefani Germanotta, aka Lady

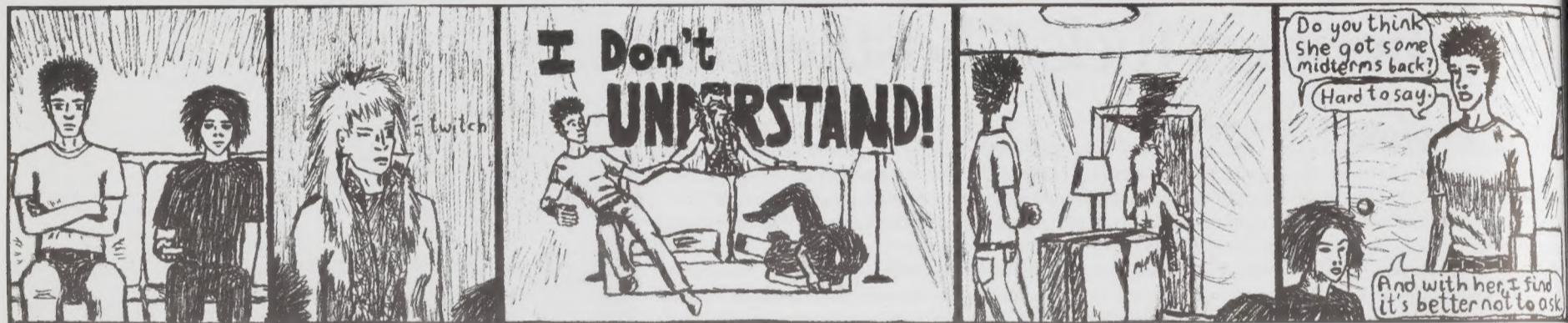
ID & EGO by Lauren Alston



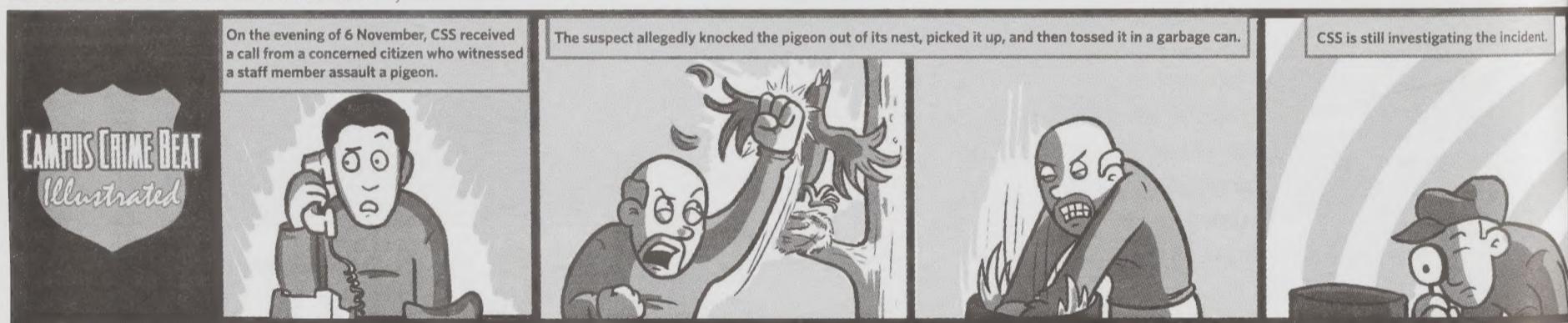
METALEETO by Ross Vincent



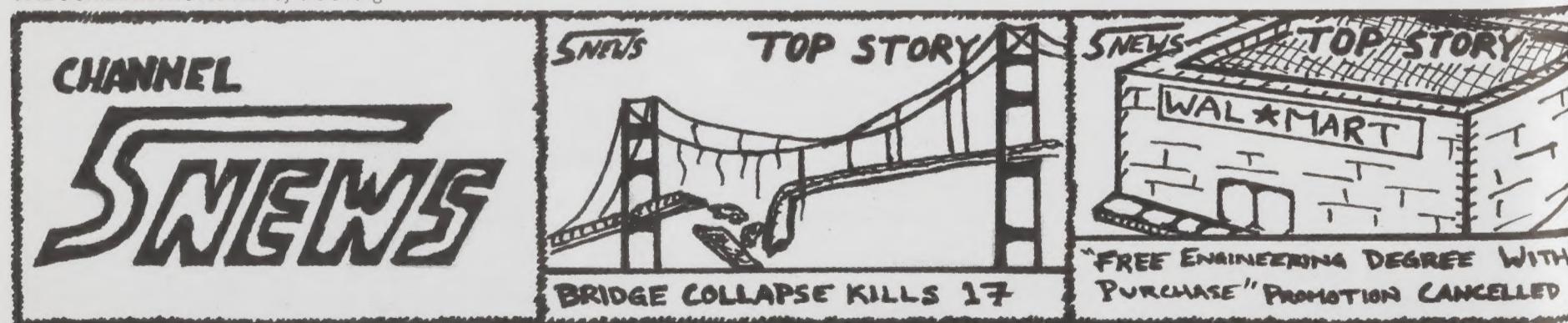
THE RESTLESS WICKED by Marie Gojmerac



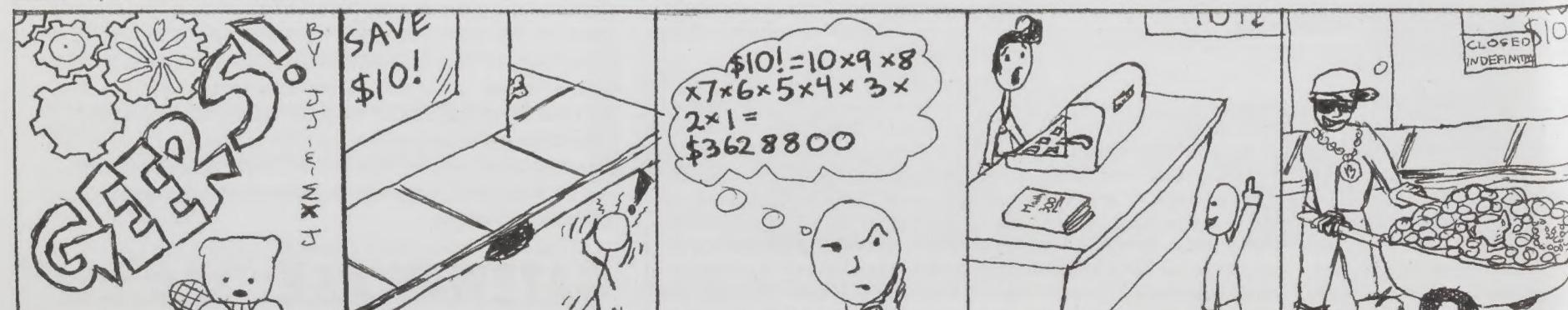
CAMPUS CRIME BEAT ILLUSTRATED by Conal Pierse



THE SCRIBBLE MONSTER by Eric Chiang



GEERS by Jackie Powell and Jordan Larson





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What you need to know about

Applying online for full-time post-secondary student funding

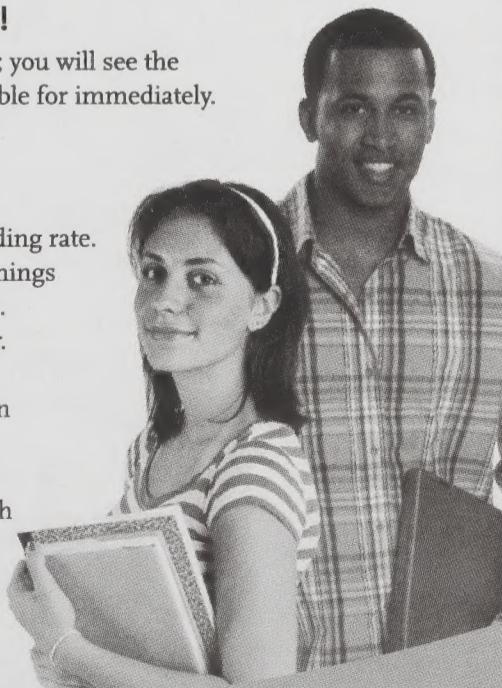
It's fast! It's easy! And there's still time!

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- Apply online today at alis.alberta.ca/apply

Major changes for 2008-2009 include:

- Interest charges available at the prime lending rate.
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- If you are eligible for provincial funding, your scholarships are no longer included in your assessment.
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Questions? Call the Student Funding Contact Centre in Edmonton 780-427-3722 or toll free in Canada 1-800-222-6485.



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Are atheists immoral? Talk by Dan Barker. Nov 19 at 6PM in Tel 150

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MINOR ISSUES

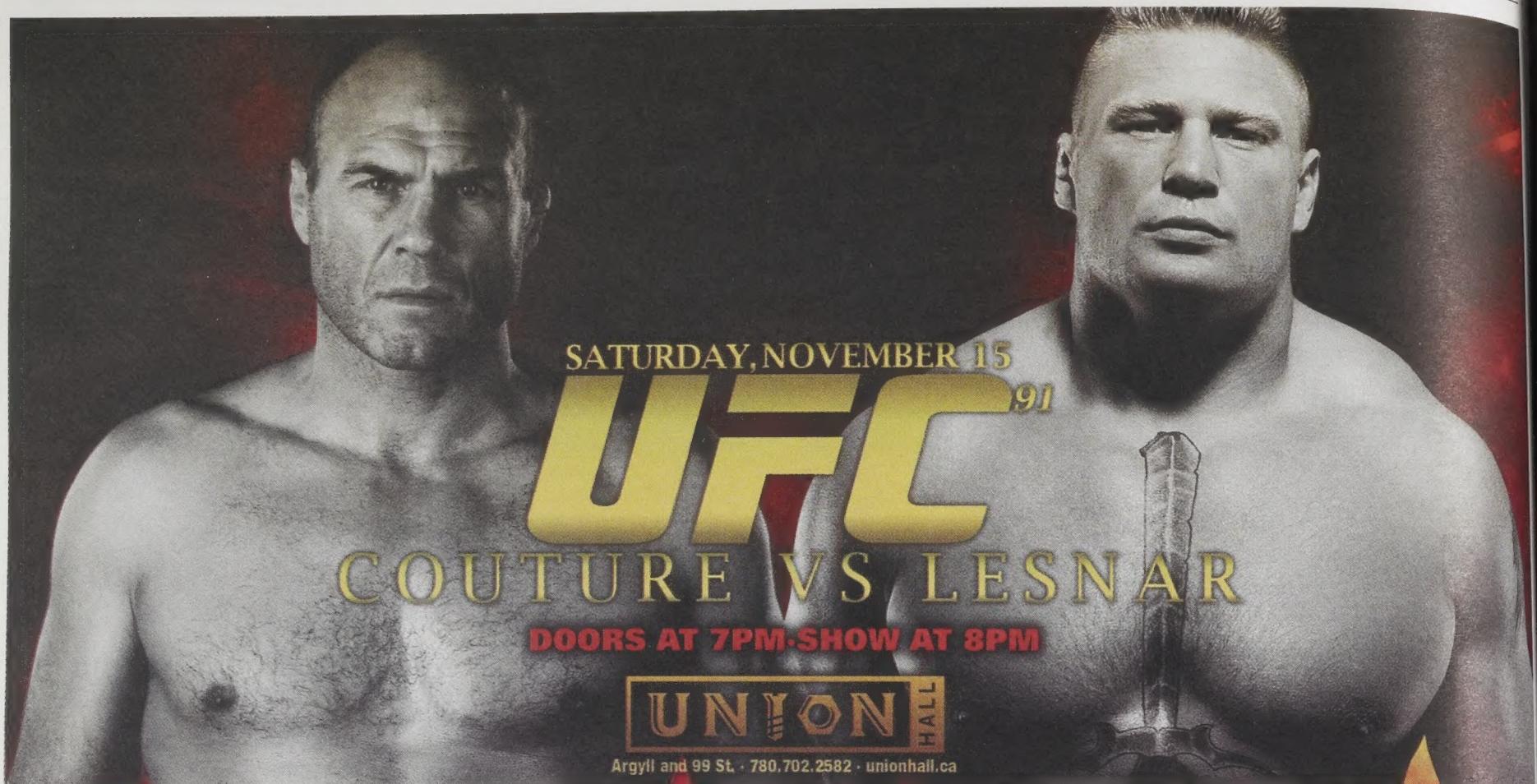
I'm behind on my word count for Nanowrimo (national novel writing month), therefore nothing else matters. Not even minor issues

When dear Jasper and Marigold received that familiar wax-sealed envelope, its home-made paper containing a heavy does of contact poison, they knew what nature of work lied before them. Jasper pulled his rubber gloves on blindly, his eyes fixed on the note, they settled on his skin with a healthy snap. Finally he plucked the letter from his wife's hands and broke the wax seal. Unfolding it carefully, Marigold watched excitedly, she knew it would be a simple assignment. Just enough to see how well the two worked as a team. Their tasks would increase in difficulty as time went on. Once he unfolded the letter, the two read in unison and silence. Marigold pursed her lips a moment, processing the snippet of information. The Society higher-ups never gave much more info than that. Just enough to let them know who they were hunting and why they needed to die. They trusted the society to know the rest, because in a bloody sort of business the less you know the better.

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7		2	4		1



HUDSONS BOREDOM

4

8

A photograph of two women in a bar or lounge setting. One woman is in the foreground, looking towards the camera, while another is partially visible behind her. The lighting is warm and focused on their faces.

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A circular logo for "Hudsons Canadian Tap House". The word "CANADIAN" is at the top, "Hudsons" is in the center in a stylized font, and "TAP HOUSE" is at the bottom. There are small maple leaf icons around the border.

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